The Middlebury Campus

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Black Lives Matter at Midd

By Henry Burnett, Renee Chang
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In light of last week's presentation by Shaun King on "Why We Must Say Black Lives Matter" and the SGA/Black Student Union call for the College to fly a Black Lives Matter banner on campus, which the Senior Leadership Group has agreed to do, the *Campus* decided to investigate student attitudes toward race and diversity at the College. Interviews with students, as well as excerpts from online publications such as *beyond the green*, reveal that opinions are mixed. King himself likened the Black Lives Matter movement and the current climate of race-based activism to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, however the talk produced both positive and critical reviews on campus.

Many students interviewed said they hold 'strong opinions' on the talk and the Black Lives Matter movement, yet many were reluctant for those opinions to be published in a forum such as *The Campus* with their names attached. The popularity and presence of groups challenging

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A Shocking Trump Victory

Election Night 2016 Leaves Students, World Stunned

Middlebury residents gathered in town to vote on Tuesday (bottom). That night, students crowded into Crossroads to anxiously watch as election results rolled in and Donald Trump's victory became imminent (top). For more election coverage, see next week's issue of the *Campus*. (Michael O'Hara)

Academic 'Clusters' Discussed at Faculty Meeting

By Ethan Brady
News Editor

Faculty representatives of the Educational Affairs Committee presented a report on academic clusters, a course sequence similar to minors but without official transcript status, at a faculty plenary session last Friday in McCardell Bicentennial Hall.

A cluster would consist of two or more courses, and could include non-credit bearing internships. The courses in a cluster would count for credit, but the cluster itself would not appear on the transcript, according to Ian Barrow, a professor of history and member of the Educational Affairs Committee.

"We hope that students and faculty will see these clusters as a rich educational experience that — rather than appearing as a line on a transcript — can be more appropriately described in a cover letter or letter of recommendation," Barrow said.

Courses within a cluster should revolve around a common theme, but can be in different departments and disciplines.

"A cluster on 'Water' might in-

SEE FACULTY, PAGE 2

BOLD Scholarship Extends Funding for Female Students

By Kitty Pollack
Staff Writer

The College has been selected to participate in the Pussycat Foundation's BOLD Women's Leadership Network, a two-year pilot program cultivating female empowerment. Beginning in Jan. 2017, ten women from the College will join a cross-institutional cohort including students from Rutgers University-Newark, California State University at Fullerton and Smith College.

The sponsor for this program, the Pussycat Foundation, was founded by the late Helen Gurley Brown, former editor-in-chief of *Cosmopolitan*. Her legacy will connect these four different institutions, each with a female president, in the shared pursuit of female empowerment and leadership.

In order to be considered for this program, students must either nominate themselves or be nominated by a member of the faculty and staff by Nov. 11. Eligible students must be a junior at the College, identify as female and display a strong commitment to both their academics and improving the community. At the end of the spring, the College will select five more BOLD scholars from the current sophomore class.

The selection process will involve multiple rounds of interviews with national BOLD representatives as well as with the College's own selection committee. Beginning with a group interview involving up to fifty students, the students who most embody BOLD's vision for the program will then be asked to return for individual interviews. The last round of interviews will be held on Dec. 3.

A significant part of the BOLD vision is to create a cohort that empowers women who have been traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles. Therefore, the committee encourages women from all backgrounds to consider bringing their voices to the cohort, especially those who may have experienced limitations based on their race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or other factors.

Dean of Students Baishaki Taylor described this program as "special" because it goes beyond providing students with a singular internship or mentoring experience. It provides women with a multitude of experiences and a network of like-minded, strong women to guide them during and beyond their college years.

Taylor described the importance of a network of this sort, especially during this particular cultural moment.

"It is such an amazing opportunity, particularly now for so many different reasons, both historical

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 2

Correction: In the Nov. 3 article, "College Receives Funds to Prevent Sexual Assault," Barbara McCall was named the project manager of grant funds that the College receieved from the Department of Justice. She is, in fact, the alternate grant manager. Karen Guttentag is the grant's project director and was the grant's project director in 2013.

MIDDLEBURY HIRES FIRST IN-HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL

By Caroline Agsten
News Editor

On Nov. 4 Middlebury announced the appointment of Hannah S. Ross, who will fill the newly created position of general counsel. Ross will officially start this new position on Dec. 1.

Ross's selection marks Middlebury's first in-house general counsel. She will be responsible for all legal work pertaining to the Middlebury Institution, which will include providing legal oversight and advising on issues such as compliance, non-discrimination and affirmative action, labor and employment, student life, international activities, risk management, governance and corporate matters. Ross will provide an essential role in offering such legal and strategic advice to the president, board of trustees and other senior administrators.

According to Vice President for Communications Bill Burger, the senior administration has discussed the need for this position for some time.

"In recent years, we have experienced a steady expansion in statutory and regulatory compliance requirements relating to issues of employment, safety, access, privacy, Title IX enforcement, and more," he said.

Burger noted that previously these services would be provided by outside legal help. "For many years, we have used outside counsel for assistance on all of these issues," he said. "While they have served us well, the creation of a general counsel position in house brings two major benefits. One, it will help reduce our outside legal bills. Equally important, it will bring valuable experience and perspective to the institution and the senior leadership group."

In an interview with Middlebury's Newsroom, Ross said, "It will be a delight to support both the breadth and depth of Middlebury's programs — stretching around the globe and looking deeply into our society's most challenging issues."

Ross joins Middlebury from Princeton University, where she served as university counsel since 2003.

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By Ally Murphy
SGA Correspondent

The Oct. 30 SGA meeting began with a discussion between senators and the College's Director of Athletics Erin Quinn, who spoke about the role of the athletic program in the community. He also discussed how the athletic department is committed to the inclusivity of students of color, LGBTQ students and students of lower socioeconomic status, and he stated that the athletic department has allocated more money to ensure that teams are able to recruit from a diverse range of students.

The SGA then discussed a resolution to create a zone for free expression called "Midd Speaks". The zone would allow any student to express his or her views and opinions in an open area on campus. Potential ways that students could utilize the space would be by hanging banners or flags, writing with chalk, painting signs, etc. Senators continued to discuss the language of the resolution, and tabled the discussion.

The Nov. 6 SGA meeting began with a special appearance from Miguel Fernandez, the College's chief diversity officer. Fernandez updated the senators regarding the hanging of a Black Lives Matter banner on campus. He said that the College is in the process of meeting with members of the Black Student Union (BSU) and hopes to hang the banner outside McCullough sometime during the week of Nov. 7. On Nov. 8, the College's Senior Leadership Group (SLG) announced in an all-student email that they would hang a banner outside of McCullough for the remainder of the fall semester.

Fernandez also informed senators that the SLG has reservations about the hanging of the Black Lives Matter flag at the athletic center because it would be difficult to regulate and maintain. He also stated that the administration has appreciated how the SGA approached the situation and is open and flexible to finding other alternatives that meet the resolution passed by the SGA.

Senators then discussed the passing of a bylaws amendment titled "Midd Speaks Flag Pole Resolution," which states that the College should support and sponsor two flag poles (constructing one outside of McCullough, and designating one of the three pre-existing poles outside of the athletic center) as "student initiative poles" that "will be for the sole use of student initiatives." As worded in the resolution, the bill will create "a student-facilitated space for self-expression and collaborative expressiveness."

Senators then discussed the specifics of the bill, mainly how students would seek approval to use the space. They also debated how long a flag should be hung from the pole. Senators voted to table the discussion until their next meeting.

SGA President Karina Toy '16 then introduced a bill that would take $2,500 from the SGA budget and allocate it towards the creation of a J-Term Workshop Fund for 2017.

Students who have demonstrated need will be able to apply for funding on a first-come first-serve basis. The bill also states that the SGA Treasurer will add a line item for the J-Term Workshop fund to the yearly SGA budget, which the SGA will not vote on until the end of this academic year. The SGA passed the bill unanimously. For more coverage of the bill, see next week's issue of the *Campus*.

GSFS Department Invites Alums Back to Campus for First "Feminist Retreat"

By Sarah Asch
Senior Writer

The College hosted the first "Feminist Alumnx Retreat" from Nov. 4-5, inviting graduated majors and minors of the Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies program (GSFS), and all of its previous permutations, to talk to current students about their work after graduation. The retreat, which was organized by the GSFS program and the Women's Resource Center at Chellis House, featured eighteen graduate speakers dating back to the class of 1992 and through the class of 2015.

Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Sujata Moorti was instrumental in planning the event. Moorti wanted to host the Feminist Alumnx Retreat to show both students and graduates how the GSFS major translates into meaningful work.

"We knew our alums were leaders in their fields but we did not have textured information about their accomplishments," Moorti said. "We believed it was time to showcase our alums activities and connect them across generations. Equally important we wanted our current students to become aware of how our alums were translating feminist studies in the world beyond Middlebury,"

After a dinner reception on Friday, Saturday began with opening remarks from faculty members and moved on to a series of panels including Feminist Law & Feminist Community Building, Feminist Education and Academe and Feminist Science and Art. Some of the younger graduates who spoke included Ashley Guzman '13, a civil legal advocate at the Bronx Defenders, Alexandra Strott '14.5, a high school English teacher and Joanna Georgakas '14, who is an Associate in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and works as a clinical research assistant at McLean Hospital.

Throughout the different sessions, panelists discussed how they use a feminist approach in their work and what sorts of lessons they learned from their time at Middlebury.

Molli Freeman-Lynde '08, an immigration attorney, noted her classes and advocacy work on campus were crucial to her work today. "All of these affirmative experiences [at Middlebury] have helped me become an advocate. It's important to balance the desire between changing systems and helping people right now," she said.

Guzman acknowledged that her senior seminar at the College "taught [her] to always question knowledge, because nothing is ever 'neutral.'" Aifuwa Ehigiator '08, founder of the company Our Street, which uses equity crowdfunding to create energy-efficient affordable housing, noted that his decision to double major in (what was then called) Women and Gender Studies and Economics allowed him "to study struggle and triumph."

Another alumnae, Lisa Darak-Druck '92, spoke on the Science and Arts panel about her work as a senior IT business analyst at IDEXX Laboratories. Darak-Druck was an active member of the GSFS community while on campus, though at the time it was called Women's Studies, and she participated in and helped create many student organizations in the field of GSFS.

-"I was a co-founder of Oasis Outreach, a peer counseling and support group in the areas of sexual assault and body image/eating disorders," Darak-Druck said. "I was the coordinator for the Women's Brown Bag Lunch Series, which included faculty, staff and students. I was a co-coordinator of the Women's Union as well."

Darak-Druck said she was excited to see how the GSFS program has evolved since she graduated, and she hoped to talk to with students about her experience when the program was just starting. "I hope to help share about the early days of the [Women's Studies] major and the fight for a women's center on campus," she said.

The sharing of experiences like Darak-Druck's across generations was a big part of why Moorti wanted to host the retreat.

"We imagined this retreat would expand the aspirational horizons of our current students," Moorti said. "We also believed that this would be a great networking opportunity for our graduates and current students."

"Above all we believed that the program (faculty, staff and students) had a lot to learn from the ways in which our graduates were transforming knowledge from our classrooms in the everyday world," she said. "We wanted the retreat to thus serve as a way for alums to connect with each other across generations, from 1992 through 2015, and for our current students to see them as potential mentors."

Laurie Essig, the director and an associate professor of the GSFS program, was also excited that the retreat created the opportunity for current students to meet program alums.

"Middlebury has a wonderful tradition of feminist scholarship and activism that is right now finding real institutional space and support that is allowing it to really come into its own," Essig said. "We are all so very excited to be part of an institution that can make something like a feminist alumnx retreat happen and look forward to building on this event to help expand on that tradition."

Moorti has watched the GSFS program grow steadily over recent years. "Over the past decade GSFS, formerly known as WAGS [Women and Gender Studies], has consolidated itself with a strong curriculum and robust participation from faculty across the curriculum. We were graduating a steady number of majors, sometimes exceeding expectations of what was essentially a one-person program," Moorti said.

She continued, "In the world beyond Middlebury our graduates were engendering social justice reforms nationally and internationally. For instance, just in the last year our graduates were being recognized for securing girls' education in Afghanistan, working with the White House on the Let Girls Learn Campaign, and initiating STEM campaigns."

Faculty Talk Clusters, a New Kind of Minor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

volve enrolling in my East India Company course, a course in biology, a course in environmental sciences and an internship at the Monterey aquarium," Barrow said.

The EAC presented the idea as an information report, not as a proposal for voting. In their presentation, the committee suggested that new clusters should take priority over new interdisciplinary, standalone minors. Several faculty members called for a full vote on such a policy at a later date.

"We take this feedback seriously, and will be discussing as a committee and getting back to the faculty soon with thoughts about how we'd like to move forward in light of these concerns," Barrow said.

Privilege and Poverty is the only currently recognized cluster, but some faculty are hopeful that more clusters will be developed soon. James Davis, a professor of religion and the academic director for Privilege and Poverty, said that his experience leading a cluster has been positive.

"The interaction of students around issues of inequality that I've witnessed in P&P has been rich, and the participating faculty also have discovered connections with one another, despite approaching the issues from very different disciplinary vantage points," Davis said.

The Privilege and Poverty cluster offers classes, regular lunches and a summer internship working within Addison County and in other counties in the eastern United States. The Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty sponsors the internship, matching students with for agencies that help impoverished communities.

"The great advantage to the cluster is that it allows faculty and students to self-select into a community of discourse around a particular set of issues, to direct the liberal arts endeavor toward an issue of responsible citizenship," Davis said.

The challenge right now, according to Davis, is creating awareness of what clusters are about.

"We're the only one right now, so I spend an awful lot of time explaining the idea to people on campus. That challenge will go away once we develop more clusters," Davis said. "They will become part of the vernacular."

Teachers and staffers would help students represent their work in the cluster to future employers or graduate schools, such as with letters of recommendation and online portfolios.

"Because they don't show up on the transcript," Davis said, "clusters come with heightened responsibility for students to be able to articulate what they've done in a cluster and why it's been important to their education."

COLLEGE OFFERS BOLD SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMICS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and current," she said. "We really need to think about women's leadership and what better way to start this process in a more structured way."

Each scholar will receive a grant of $25,000 to go towards their academic expenses each year. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a three-week international experience over the summer of 2017. This opportunity is designed to expose BOLD scholars to larger world issues so that they may understand their ability as scholars to address global challenges.

This program will enrich each scholar in a network of strong mentors. One such mentor will help the BOLD scholars develop and implement a transformation project for the entire campus. This project will create a strong legacy of their work on the campus and also enable all community members to carry their legacy forward.

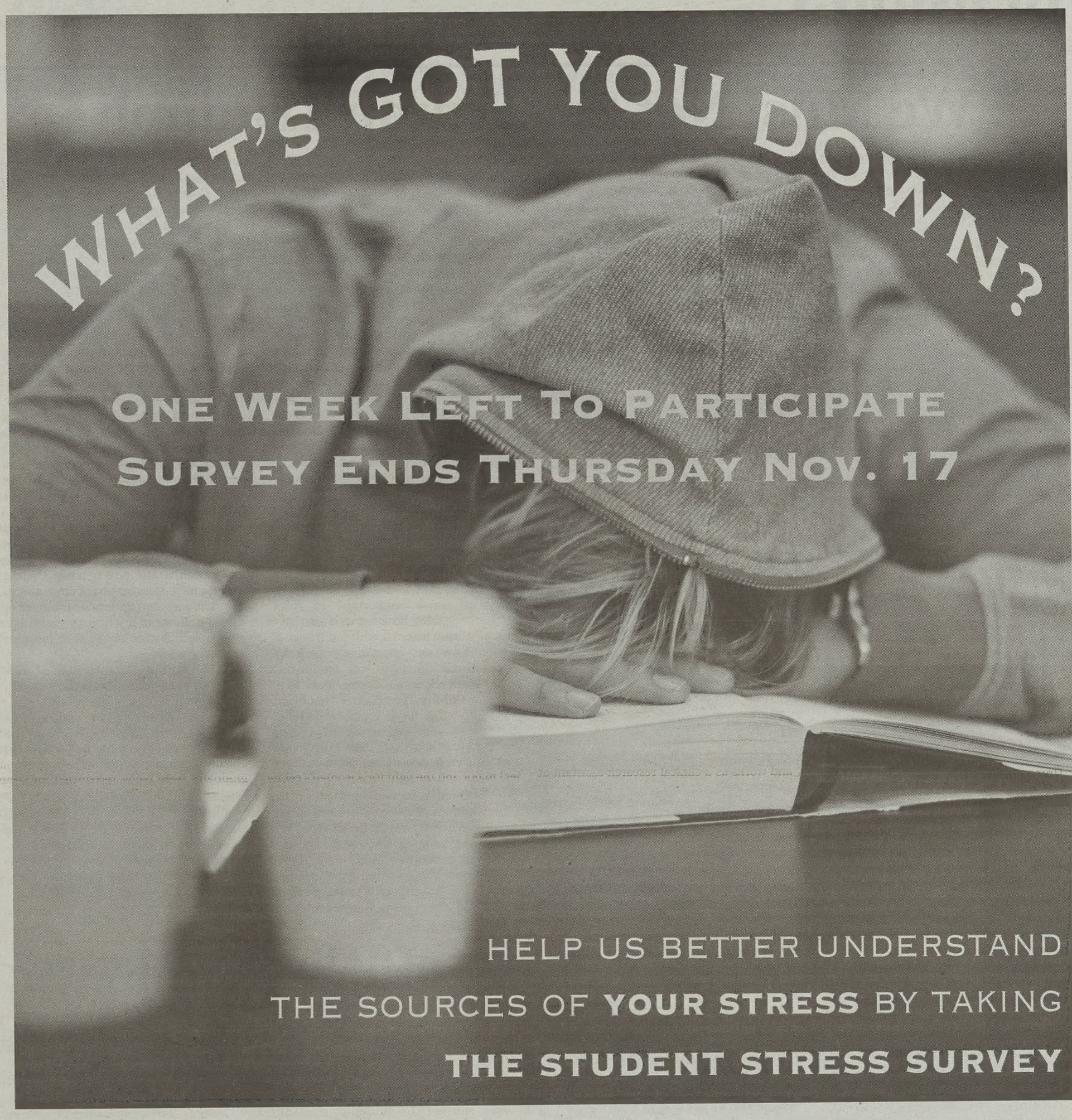
While this local engagement is a crucial part of BOLD, the BOLD scholars will also engage with the scholars at the other three institutions within the cohort. In January, they will meet at a retreat at Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus. They will also come together again for a summit in New York.

After graduation, the scholars will be given support in their job searches, both financially and by the extensive network of female leaders involved with BOLD. This support is designed to ensure that all BOLD scholars are employed and working with and for organizations that empower women after graduating.

Finally, over the two-year pilot program, each institution will choose fifteen BridgeUp Scholars from the class of first-year students, who will be mentored by the BOLD scholars. These women should demonstrate a similar passion for female leadership and increase the reach of the program on each of the four campuses.

Elaine Orozco Hammond, the College's BOLD program site coordinator, said, "A BOLD scholar should not be afraid to push and start conversations about difficult social topics in their efforts to really affect social change."

Taylor reiterated this sentiment, saying she hopes that candidates will, above all, be bold "I want to be inspired by all of your boldness," she said.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OPINIONS

Disclaimer: Reader op-eds do not reflect the opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* editorial board.

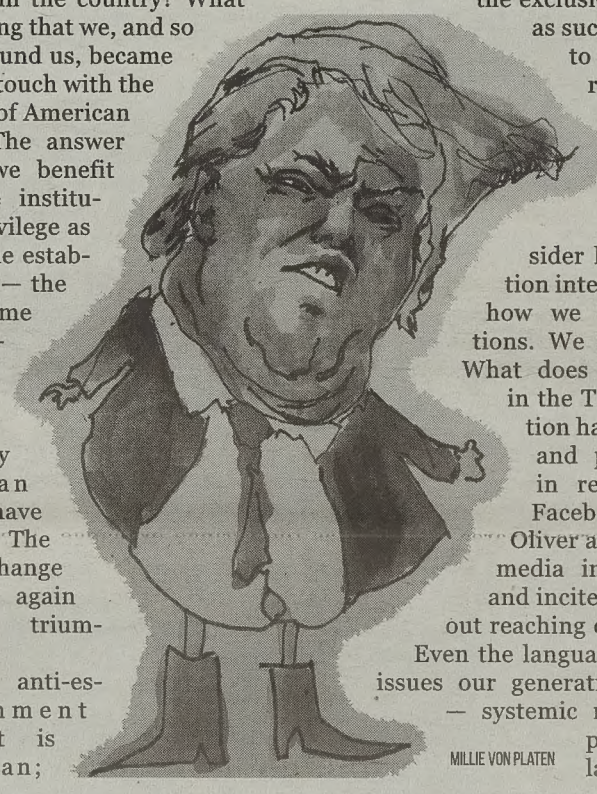
We Must Not Let Trump Triumph

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of The Middlebury Campus.

Donald Trump is not our president. Like the rest of the world, we at the *Campus* are confused, appalled, disillusioned and deeply concerned by the results of Tuesday's election. Trump's victory marks a huge setback for the United States in more ways than one, and we feel that we have been let down by the American people. Somehow we have allowed our presidency to go to a man who actively denigrates women, brags about sexual assault and advocates for the exclusion of an entire religion from entering the United States. A man who is openly misogynistic, racist and xenophobic. A man unfit to lead our great nation.

For so many of us at the College, this was the first presidential election in which we could vote. With this right and duty, we discussed and debated the candidates with strong biases. It has become clear that we were deafened by an echo chamber of Clinton support. If such a strong majority of Middlebury students actively feared and opposed Trump's election, how did he gain a majority of the vote in the country? What went wrong that we, and so many around us, became so out of touch with the majority of American voters? The answer is that we benefit from the institution's privilege as part of the establishment — the very same establishment against which many American people have voted. The call for change has once again proven triumphant.



MILLIE VON PLATEN

But anti-establishment sentiment is bipartisan; both Bernie and Trump supporters have strong anti-establishment sentiments at the core of their support bases. It would be reductive to dismiss the alt-right as a group of attributional racists and xenophobes. The United States is the single most economically unequal modern democracy in the world, and economic security in large geographical segments of the country is practically nonexistent. The economy is growing, but only for those in the top ten percent of income earners, and particularly for those in the top one percent. Trump's massive support around the country and rising racism in the U.S. are not just the consequences of Trump's irresponsible rhetoric (though that's not to be discounted) — they are also the product of an economic system that privileges the elite to the exclusion of all others, and, as such, it would be foolish to assume that the alt-right movement will end with Trump's defeat.

We therefore believe that it is important to consider how we as a generation interact with politics and how we approach conversations. We must ask ourselves: What does solidarity look like in the Trump era? This election has been more charged and polarizing than any in recent history. From Facebook filters to John Oliver and Tomi Lahren, our media increasingly plays to and incites its own views without reaching out to the other side. Even the language we use to discuss issues our generation finds important — systemic racism, generational poverty, immigration law — has become increasingly exclusive and inaccessible to many people not attending liberal and elite colleges. We have to find a way to extend these conversations across the table and make them accessible to people who do not already understand and interact with this vocabulary.

But what can we do immediately to ensure that Trump does not cause irreversible damage to the world over the next four years? How can we be proactive in a nation that now feels to be moving backwards? We must maintain the sense of urgency that so many voters felt throughout this election cycle. If anything, we have learned from this election that we need to be actively involved in our politics to make our voices heard. We need to speak with and pressure our local representatives — our congressmen and congresswomen, our senators, our city councillors and our mayors — to prevent any damaging legislation from Trump.

At the end of the day, we still stand together as Americans. While many of us are deeply saddened and terrified, we must recognize the power we still cling onto. We have the right to protest and to prevent the new president from passing harmful policies that will hurt marginalized people not only in the U.S. but also around the world.

We have a duty to take care of ourselves and each other. To those protected by your privilege — be it whiteness, maleness or anything else — you carry an even greater responsibility to protect the groups who will continue to be harmed and marginalized by Trump's dangerous rhetoric and presidency. This election marks a disappointing setback in our nation's history that will undoubtedly produce ripples for years to come. But we cannot allow ourselves to sink into complacent discouragement. We are Americans, and we must work together to create the America we want.

The Middlebury Campus

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Negative Impact of "All Lives Matter"

READER OP-ED

***The Community Bias Response Team** writes in about how a recent racial bias incident impacts members of our community.*

Last week's edition of the *Campus* introduced the Community Bias Response Team as a new body charged with coordinating and communicating an institutional response to bias incidents and acts of intolerance involving students. We appreciate the introduction and hope to provide educational interventions to the Middlebury community when necessary.

We write today in this effort to address messaging that occurred on the blackboard wall in the McCullough mailroom last week. One individual wrote the statement Black Lives Matter five times. Someone else seems to have put a line through the five instances of "Black" and written ALL, underlined for emphasis. The intent seems to have been to change Black Lives Matter to All Lives Matter. Some students were upset by this act, felt there was bias involved and brought it to the attention of the administration.

This complaint was taken seriously and discussed at length. The ephemeral nature of blackboard writings, which arguably invite commentary, complicates our analysis of the matter, and it seems to be quite different to defacing a poster. We would like to address why the action of scratching out the word "Black" and replacing it with "All," preceding "lives matter," negatively impacts many members of our community.

The expression "All Lives Matter" is not problematic on its own. Of course all lives matter. The Buddhist concept of dependent origination holds that all life is interrelated and nothing exists in isolation. If the term "All Lives Matter" is used in this context, for example, it makes perfect sense.

However, when "All Lives Matter" is used as a response to counter "Black Lives Matter," it serves to reject what BLM is saying. It serves to censor its message. So, what is "Black Lives Matter" trying to say? BLM is fighting against systemic racism. It is stating that there is historical evidence to show that Black lives matter less. Some people think that BLM is suggesting that ONLY Black lives matter. Quite to the contrary, BLM is emphasizing that Black lives *also* matter, or Black lives *should* matter. So, saying All Lives Matter may be perceived to deny the injustice done to the Black community.

"Many of us have been taught that we shouldn't see color, that colorblindness is the ideal. But this turns out to be a privileged position of being able to ignore race. People of color don't have that luxury."

Black Lives Matter suggests that the U.S. is not standing by its principle that All Men Are Created Equal. So, saying All Lives Matter is seen as preventing the country from moving in a direction where all lives actually do matter, making it harder to bring about positive change. "All Lives Matter" assumes Black lives have been included in "All lives," and this has not been the case.

The problematic word in Black Lives Matter seems to be "Black." Many of the people who dislike BLM are happy to say "All Lives Matter" and/or "Blue Lives Matter," so it must be the word Black that is problematic. This is probably because it challenges our notion that race doesn't matter. Many of us have been taught that we shouldn't see color, that colorblindness is the ideal. But this turns out to be a privileged position of being able to ignore race. People of color don't have that luxury.

We are writing this in an attempt to help share why the phrase "All Lives Matter," when stated in contraposition to "Black Lives Matter," can have a negative impact on members of our community.

Highlighting Vt. CARES Syringe Exchange Program

By Sarah Holmes
Contributing Writer

Heroin has become an increasingly cheap, accessible and dangerous drug in the United States in recent decades.

Increased usage of the drug has resulted in controversy around heroin-related problems and how to best manage addiction. One idea that has taken off throughout the United States is syringe exchanges: injection drug users bring dirty needles to exchange locations and receive clean needles.

While many policy makers are hesitant about such a program, believing it would encourage heroin use, this has not been the case. Instead, throug these programs injection drug users are afforded medical assistance and security and are provided with a non-judgmental space to receive help with their addiction. These programs have taken off in 37 states and are rapidly expanding across the country.

Heroin use throughout Vermont has skyrocketed in the past decade, primarily in blue-collar towns like Rutland. Major health problems are associated with heroin use, including overdose and the spread of HIV and hepatitis C through usage of dirty needles.

Additionally, improperly discarded, dirty needles have started to appear in community parks and in public spaces, posing a threat to families, community members, or others who use the parks. Recognizing the need for a free, anonymous harm reduction program in Vermont, Vermont CARES began in 1986 to support individuals living with HIV.

Vermont CARES has offices in Burlington, Rutland, Montpelier and Saint Johnsbury. Each office offers services for HIV-positive individuals or those concerned that they may be affected, including HIV testing, information on living with HIV/AIDS, syringe exchanges and counseling support.

Their syringe exchange program is run out of their offices in Saint Johnsbury and Rutland, as well as through a mobile syringe exchange in 12 counties in Vermont. The syringe exchanges are free and simple: the injection drug users (called peers among Vermont CARES) bring their dirty needles either to the offices or to the mobile syringe exchanges and receive clean needles in exchange.

Membership to Vermont CARES is free and anonymous, with the goal of reducing the stigma surrounding HIV. The syringe exchange programs are need-based and run by request. As the demand for syringe exchanges and anonymous HIV support grows, Vermont CARES will bring its services to more areas.

Vermont CARES is a peer-driven program, and it has expanded as it has gained more users and more support. Since the programs provide service on a need-basis, if there is a greater need for syringes in the Middlebury area, the mobile syringe exchanges through Vermont CARES will continue to serve the area.

Currently, needles can be purchased from pharmacies for $4 for a box of 10 needles. For many injection drug users, the needles from the free exchanges are significant financially.

According to a CNN article published in 2015, Mary Kathryn Charbonneau, who runs the Vermont CARES exchange in Rutland, encounters injection drug users who exchange hundreds of needles at a time. While controversial to many Americans, these non-judgmental syringe exchange programs are aimed at ensuring the safety of injection drug users and providing them with support, rather than shunning them to the outskirts of society.

"It's really important to have community partners and try to find ways for Middlebury students to get involved in community issues, so I think this is a really fantastic opportunity, but it has to be gone about in the correct way."

MADDIE HACK '17
MEMBER OF GLOBEMED

According to Harm Reduction Program Manager Theresa Vezina, Vermont CARES partners with Hub centers in Vermont. Hub centers support people living with addiction, substance abuse and mental health complications.

In their partnership with Hub centers, Vermont CARES provides clean syringes to the individuals on Hub waiting lists who would otherwise be at risk for infection via dirty syringes.

GlobeMed, a gobal public health and medical student organization at the College, has been working with Vermont CARES in to establish a partnership and to assist in their harm reduction programs, such as the syringe exchange. The mobile exchange is already happening in Middlebury, but the demand for a more permanent office with expanded services could arise in the future.

GlobeMed member Maddie Hack '17 commented, "the relationship of someone going to needle exchanges [is] based on trust, non-judgment."

She stressed the importance of "cultural competency training... so that when we come, we're being a beneficial part of this movement and not at all detracting from the ultimate goal ... the whole reason why we're doing this is to service these individuals. If Vermont CARES wants us to really work on fundraising, that's what we'll do."

"It's really important to have community partners," Hack said, "and try to find ways for Middlebury students to get involved in community issues, so I think this is a really fantastic opportunity, but it has to be gone about in the correct way."

There are a number of ways students can become involved with Vermont CARES programs.

Beyond conducting syringe exchanges in the offices and through mobile exchanges, there is much work to be done in HIV harm reduction, according to Vezina. Though many volunteers hope to work on the front lines of the syringe exchanges, much of the work for these harm reduction programs happens behind the scenes.

As it is difficult for injection drug users to step out of the shadows to seek assistance, volunteers have to be carefully trained in cultural competence and must be knowledgeable about the ways to talk about and handle addiction. With training, knowledge and compassion, students could have a great impact in the communities that the programs run through Vermont CARES service.

If you would like to learn more about harm reduction programs in Vermont or are interested in volunteering for Vermont CARES, please contact Theresa Vezina at theresa@vtcares.org.

If you would like to become involved with GlodeMed on campus, please contact Maddie Hack at mhack@middlebury.edu.

Fortnightly Feature: Hiking Mount Abraham

Fortnightly Feature

By Nina Sonneborn and Dorothy Punderson
Contributing Writers

For directions to the Battell trailhead and more information, please visit go/fortnightlyfeature

Battell Trail parking to summit: 3 miles
Difficulty level: Difficult
For direction to the Battell Trailhead and more information, visit go/fortnightlyfeature

The leaves are almost all gone and there is snow in the mountains! Pack some warm clothes, and get up there to remind yourself how much fun winter is.

Mount Abraham (or Mt. Abe, as it is often called) is the closest "big mountain" to campus and the fifth highest peak in Vermont. Although we've hiked it many times before, the beautiful trail and rewarding views at the top never get old.

There are two ways to get to the summit of Abe: either up the Long Trail from the top of Lincoln Gap, or up Battell Trail, which joins the Long Trail just before the Battell Shelter.

The Battell Trail is a slightly longer approach, but is, in our opinion, a better built (and less crowded) trail. It is also more accessible in the winter when the Lincoln Gap Road is closed. Right now, fallen leaves sometimes make the trail hard to see, but you can easily follow the blue blazes until you come to the junction of the Battell Trail with the Long Trail.

This time of year, it is still late fall at the trailhead. As you get higher, the snow appears and you enter into early winter. By the summit there were even a few inches of snow. Early on this past Sunday morning there was almost nobody on the trails, and the woods were completely silent, except for a hiss of sleet falling. Though there are still at least a few weeks before Middlebury looks like this, it is exciting to get a first taste of winter. Happy Hiking!

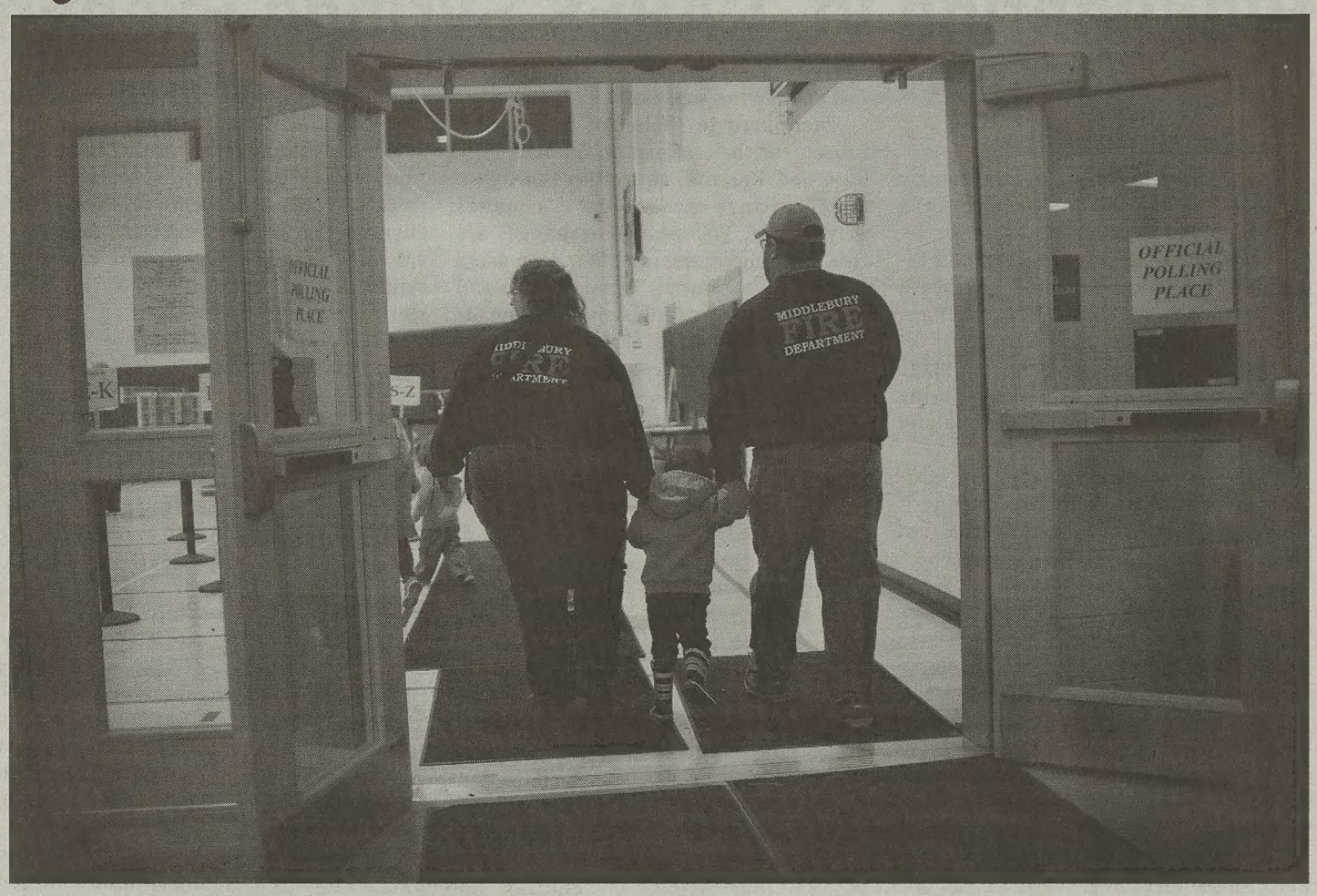
DOROTHY PUNDERSON

The Battell Trail was lightly dusted with snow, giving a taste of the coming winter.

Winter hiking note: As of this weekend, microspikes were not necessary to climb Mt. Abe, but depending on the weather, the conditions could change quickly. If you plan to hike in the Green Mountains, you can rent a pair of microspikes from the Gear Room for free. Gear open hours are in the FIC from 4:30-7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. And remember to bring plenty of warm layers — it's much colder up in the mountains than down here in Middlebury.

Middlebury Locals Take the Election

By Elaine Velie and Sophie Slotnick
Contributing Writers



Since 1992, the majority of Vermonters have voted for a Democratic president. The state is widely known for its liberal-leaning politics. Not only did Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders represent the ideological left in the 2016 primary season, Vermont also boasts the title of first state to legalize gay marriage and is home to renowned environmentalist and leader of *350.org*, Bill McKibben.

This campaign season has been long, exhausting and full of surprises. In order to gauge a sense of how the residents of Middlebury feel about the election, we walked through town and into local businesses to ask around.

Along Main Street, many business owners and local residents expressed frustration with this election cycle. They voiced disappointment in the unproductive "bickering back-and forth" that has pervaded the election.

A sense of relief about the election season finally coming to an end was echoed throughout town as residents described this election as "an embarrassment to our country" and as "a disaster in every way." Fear surrounding the results of the election has also spread its way throughout the town. Middlebury residents' overall sentiments about the current election were annoyance, disgust, anticipation and relief.

The majority of Middlebury residents we spoke to shared that they had voted, or were planning on voting in the election. Of these people, all said that they were voting for Hillary Clinton, with the exception of a few individuals who chose not to respond. Voting for Clinton as "the lesser of two evils" also proved to be a common trend. Those individuals who said they did not vote attributed it to a lack of interest in either candidate, as well as to a lingering bitterness about Bernie Sanders' loss.

Residents were also asked if the election had altered the climate of Middlebury or Vermont in general. Overall, most said that they had not witnessed a significant change. However, some spoke about political polarization, indicating that the election had become so polarizing that many individuals do not wish to share their political beliefs with others. A sign on Exchange Street was referenced that read along the lines of, "clean up the pond scum, go vote." The overwhelming negative attitude of this election and pervasive anger towards one's opposing political party were themes many residents brought to light.

Locals expressed the idea of Middlebury being in a "bubble" in terms of its political position. Overall, everyone was glad that this whirlwind of an election season is finally over. Now the next thing to worry about is the aftermath of the election.

MICHAEL O'HARA

On Tuesday, Middlebury residents, young and old, went to the gymnasium of the New Recreation Center on Creek Road to cast their ballots or watched on as their parents did.

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Students Celebrate Dia de los Muertos

By Charmaine Lam
Features Editor

Against the backdrop of Mexican folk music, Coltrane Lounge bustled last Saturday with the chatter of community members, Middlebury students and faculty as they celebrated Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. Children focused intensely as they decorated traditional sugar skulls with red, blue and yellow icing, while students helped with facepainting designs on attendees. Still other students and community participants came together in a circle to play lotería, a Mexican party game similar to bingo.

The student organization Juntos, which works to address the social and political injustices faced by the migrant farmworker community in Vermont, hosted the Dia de los Muertos event this past Saturday. The event brought together members of the local Latino community in celebration of the Mexican tradition. Although the event took place on campus, it was mainly intended for the migrant community, rooted in this tradition, to celebrate the connections between life and death.

"The [Dia de los Muertos] event celebrates the dead and brings them back to life, in a sense," said Robert Zarate-Morales '17, office manager of Juntos. "This event is aimed for community members rather than for the Middlebury student body as a whole, because [the Latino community members] are the ones who hold on to these traditions. We'd like to provide a space for them to continue these traditions."

Although the event has occurred at the Vermont Folklife Center in the town of Middlebury in the past, the location has transitioned to the College this year as the Folklife Center was unable to host the event.

"All the arrangements for the Dia de los Muertos were done by students," said Jessica Gutierrez '17, compañeros coordinator of Juntos. "Latino community members also collaborated with food prep and altar prep and many of them brought traditional items for the altar."

Of the pieces incorporated into the celebration, the altar is at the core as a body through which those who have passed may return and partake in the celebration with their loved ones.

Board members and volunteers from Juntos set up the altar in Coltrane with electronic candles, "bread of the dead" and "papel picado," or paper cutouts, alongside other motifs signifying life and death. Here, community members brought with them photos of those they would like to remember, as well as candy, fruits and other tokens that those who had passed would enjoy.

Although the altar was the centerpiece of the space, attendees wandered around, enjoying each other's conversation and company. The celebration drew many migrant workers and their families to the College. College students, adults and children alike socialized over face-painting, coloring, lotería, sugar skulls, tamales, churros and arroz con leche that were met with warm reception across all ages.

> ***"With this event, we wanted to create that connection for students to realize that these people are just like us - we all experience life and death, and we all know people who have these experiences."***
>
> **ROBERT ZARATE-MORALES**
> OFFICE MANAGER, JUNTOS

"My favorite part of the event was the meal, because they serve traditional Hispanic dishes that aren't typically served here," said Amy Lorn '19, a volunteer with Juntos. "I was also looking forward to see how it all comes together, because usually, my experience with day of the dead is people just taking some time to have a shrine rather than a whole celebration around it, so it was an interesting change to see this celebration."

While the event was significant to many College students, some for a bit of home and others for the window it provided into a different culture, the Juntos board planned the Dia de los Muertos celebration with the larger Latino migrant community in mind.

SILVIA CANTU

Students, community members and faculty gathered together to celebrate Dia de los Muertos in Coltrane Lounge, and event hosted by Juntos on Saturday, Nov. 5.

"Given the multifaceted barriers that the Latino migrant community faces here, there are very few gatherings in which the community is allowed to be just that, a Latino community – not a worker community nor a migrant community, nor a community that is vulnerable to facing threats of deportation on a daily basis," Gutierrez said.

Although the migrant farmworker population makes up a notable portion of Vermont's demographics, Zarate-Morales said, as a group they are largely voiceless in discussions of race and immigration. He said members of the community suffer from difficulties with communication, transportation and are even subject to intentional targeting from groups such as the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), which instills a fear that is present in daily actions as simple as visiting a grocery store.

While these issues may seem removed to those within the College community, Zarate-Morales highlights points of intersection between the College and the migrant farmworker community, the most prominent being the dairy industry.

"A lot of (the farmworkers') professions are milking cows," he said. "That milk is part of the dairy industry, which we get milk, ice-cream and yogurt from. Because the industry is so prominent in Vermont, we consume a large part of these products and it's important to acknowledge where that food comes from and who does that labor."

Part of Juntos' work as a student organization is to raise awareness of the migrant farmworker community that exists so close to the College and of the issues they face in hopes of creating both solidarity and more resources.

"It's so easy to ignore that our neighbors are consistently faced with challenges and hold a large amount of fear and limitations on rights every human being is entitled to," Zarate-Morales said. "With this event, we wanted to create that connection for students to realize that these people are just like us – we all experience life and death, and we all know of people who have these experiences."

The celebration was a success in those respects. The space became a comfortable one in which community members, students and faculty members alike broke out of their prescribed groups and interacted with one another.

"Our hopes for this event were to have a balanced turnout between the Middlebury students, staff and community members," Gutierrez said. "As we hoped, we were also able to create a genuine, casual setting – even almost a family-like vibe. Everyone had an amazing time."

Students interested in getting involved in Juntos can email juntos@middlebury.edu for more information and volunteer opportunities.

Middlebury Debate Society Delivers at University of Vermont Tournament

By Alex Newhouse
Features Editor

The Middlebury Debate Society has had success in recent years on the college debate circuit, winning several tournaments with highly ranked members. At a tournament over the weekend of Oct. 29-30, the team showed that this year's contingent has a lot of potential, too.

The tournament, held at the University of Vermont, brought together teams from around the region. The highest-ranked team from the College, composed of Charlotte Massey '18 and Elizabeth Lee '17, came in third place overall, while novices Garrett Johnson '20 and Miki Nakano '20 made it to Novice Finals.

MIDDLEBURY DEBATE SOCIETY

Members of the Middlebury Debate Society after the debate tournament at UVM.

In collegiate debate, debaters compete with a partner in either British Parliamentary or American Parliamentary style. Rounds at the UVM tournament followed the British Parliamentary style, in which four teams of debaters are arranged, two to a side, on "government" and "opposition." Although both "government" teams and both "opposition" teams are arguing for the same side, each team gets its own score in each round and is competing not only against the two teams on the opposing side, but also against each other on the same side.

The College's debate team competes at British Parliamentary tournaments less frequently than at American Parliamentary-style tournaments, where there is only one team on each side, so this format provided the debate team with some interesting challenges.

"I really enjoyed each debate topic that was set at UVM," Lee said. "We only get fifteen minutes to come up with our speeches, so each debate is a big adrenaline rush. That is one of my favorite parts about debate. Each round is an intellectual game and you only get fifteen minutes to figure it out."

Massey and Lee had rarely debated together at British Parliamentary-style tournaments, so finding a rapport was challenging at first. In collegiate debate, having good team dynamics is of vital importance as debaters must be able to trust each other to build on their own arguments in subsequent speeches. As a result, it took some time before they found their groove.

"I think we really came together in the second round, which was on whether countries should implement strong worker protection laws even if it harms economic growth," Massey said.

After that, though, they delivered a strong performance and made it to the quarterfinals. Although they lost there, debate teams are ranked based on their cumulative point totals, meaning that Massey and Lee were ranked third out of dozens of debate teams at the tourna-

SEE MIDDLEBURY, PAGE 8

Shaun King Calls for 'Commitment to Justice'

By Joana Salievska
Staff Writer

Speaking to a packed crowd at Mead Chapel last week, Shaun King, a prominent Black Lives Matter activist and senior justice writer for the New York Daily News, urged students "to make a life-long commitment to justice."

King said people have an exaggerated view of how progressive they truly are and need to do the hard work to address racism. He encouraged them to see the Black Lives Matter movement in a broad historical context.

"There was the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement and then today," he said.

The crowd gave King a standing ovation, and after the speech, many students lined up to ask questions. Charles Rainey '19 asked a question that was met with cheers and applause. Rainey wondered how to pursue activism on a progressive campus where there is a difference between rhetoric and understanding of racism. King answered by sharing a personal story.

"In 2008, I was pastor of a church in Atlanta," King said. "We had a great board and a lot of board meetings. One day, our best volunteer, she made our church run, she told me that I speak over the women in the board meetings."

"I felt the need to be defensive," King continued, "but I trusted her and this made me realize everyone has an exaggerated view of how progressive they truly are. All of us bring our own privilege and biases to the table. But the problem is, we do not address our own biases. Instead, the hard work of addressing racism has been left up to the wrong people. It should not be left up to African Americans to fix racism because it is not African Americans who are enforcing racist practices."

Rainey said that King's answer made him think more about some aspects of how to galvanize support for social justice.

"It made me think about how we mobilize," he said. "Although unity among people of the color is important, we have been missing a huge part of the puzzle according to Shaun King and that is mobilizing white people."

> ***"Everyone has an exaggerated view of how progressive they truly are. All of us bring our own privilege and biases to the table. But the problem is, we do not address our own biases."***
>
> **SHAUN KING**
> JOURNALIST, SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST

Stella Boye-Doe '19 said the talk was a necessary one for the College. "A lot of the time, black students are marginalized with other students of color and it seems as if Middlebury feels like because it has that color already, it doesn't need to support students once they get into college," she said. "It is important that Middlebury retain black student populations and makes them feel like they are a part of the community at Middlebury."

Mead Chapel filled early with students, faculty, staff and town residents; many had to stand in the aisles and in the back of the chapel. The College had a contentious year last year and held three town hall meetings to discuss issues like cultural appropriation, political correctness and inclusivity on campus. Rainey said these conversations are important, but he said he is still waiting for policy changes that will have a stronger effect on campus life.

"I haven't seen any policy from the administration and student government and we are almost a semester in," he said. "I want to see administration getting involved and creating an African American studies program on campus, and enrolling more black people and sending recruiters to certain areas where those marginalized groups are found and trying to get them to come to our school."

Miguel Fernández, professor of Spanish and chief diversity officer of the College, said that encouraging conversation and teaching inclusive pedagogy is the key to a more inclusive campus.

"Having a person like Shaun King, Kimberlé Crenshaw or Ta-Nehisi Coates on campus is such a big event that it will generate a lot of conversation," he said. "Even students who don't attend the talk, will hear about it and those that do attend the talk will find out what it is like to be the Other. But this also has to be in the curriculum."

Fernández says the College needs an inclusive pedagogy that will go beyond the false binary that either underrepresented students need to take on the burden of educating others or that it is the responsibility of other students to learn about underrepresented groups themselves.

"We should be teaching this in classrooms, there should be guidance," he said.

MICHAEL O'HARA
Shaun King of the Black Lives Matter movement speaks at Mead Chapel on Nov. 1.

King's visit comes at a time when questions of diversity and inclusion have shaken college campuses, including Middlebury College's. He began his talk by acknowledging the large crowd that had come to hear him speak.

"It is pretty much like this everywhere I speak and it isn't because of me, it is because of the time," he said. "People are seeking justice, especially students."

King said people are seeking justice because they can feel the country is at a critical historical turning point. He showed the audience several videos depicting police brutality and violence at Trump political rallies across the country.

"Today, we are in a steady decline," he said. "Sometimes human beings are really great and sometimes they are Donald Trump."

During the talk, King also discussed at length the endorsement of Hillary Clinton by editors of *The Atlantic* magazine. The magazine has endorsed only two other candidates in its 159-year existence, both in times of national crisis: Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and Lyndon Johnson in 1964, a year after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

> ***"Although unity among people of color is important, we have been missing a huge part of the puzzle, accoring to Shaun King, and that is mobilizing white people."***
>
> **CHARLES RAINEY '19**

"What was powerful about this was not the endorsement, but their observation that they believed that we are now in one of those times," he said. "That there was the civil war, there was the civil rights movement, and then there was three weeks ago."

The Atlantic's endorsement, the rise in police brutality and the volatile and problematic Trump campaign are all "symptomatic of being in the dip," King said. "People misinterpret steady improvement of technology with steady improvement of humanity. But if human beings were steadily getting better, how do we explain the Transatlantic Slave Trade, or the Rwandan genocide or the 102 unarmed men, women and children that were shot and killed by police last year?"

Still, King ended the evening on a hopeful note.

"The good news is, any previous time we were in a dip, we always found our way out," he said. "Human beings found their way out. Your efforts, as young stu-

MIDDLEBURY DEBATE SOCIETY SHINES AT UVM TOURNAMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8
ment.

"I'm very proud of us for being the third ranked team out of over 80 coming into the quarterfinals," Massey said. "We were hoping to make it through to the semifinal and final rounds, but I'm still happy with where we ended up. And this was just the warm up. We've got all the big tournaments still ahead of us."

Middlebury novice members - those who had not attended more than two tournaments before this school year – also had a good showing at the UVM tournament, with first-years Johnson and Nakano going all the way to the finals of the novice bracket.

"It's really great to see them do so well, especially since this is their first [British Parliamentary] tournament and only their second or third tournament of the year. They are both very hardworking and they care a lot about debate," Allyson Stevens '19, the outreach coordinator of the debate team, said.

The debate team will be traveling to many more tournaments this school year, and according to Stevens and Lee, the group of debaters show a lot of potential.

"I am very optimistic about this year," Stevens said. "We have a ton of awesome novices that are very dedicated to the team and actually care about doing well and learning how to debate. We also have a great board, including Charlotte [Massey], Elizabeth [Lee] and Caley [Henderson], who want to see our team grow and continue to do well."'

Lee explained that this year's novices have a strong interest in big political issues and bring nuanced thought to debates. She also stated that she believes the debate team will grow a lot in the coming months and years.

"I think Debate is growing tremendously at Middlebury," she said. "Our novice class is huge and members are passionate about arguing big ideas from nationalizing the pharmaceutical industry to military interventions in Zimbabwe. I think that we have a lot of potential to do well in international tournaments and create an intellectual community at Middlebury."

> ***"I think we have a lot of potential to do well in international tournaments and create an intellectual community at Middlebury."***
>
> **ELIZABETH LEE '17**
> DEBATE SOCIETY

Middlebury Debate Society has the opportunity this year to host NorthAms on Jan. 21-22, which is one of the largest debate tournaments held in North America. Dozens of schools are scheduled to attend, and it is co-sponsored by the Canadian and American collegiate Parliamentary debate associations. It alternates each year between being hosted in Canada and in the United States.

MiddCore Idea Grows to Fruition with Share To Wear Clothing Swap

By Sophie Slotnick
Contributing Writer

In an effort to make use of the many unworn dresses at the College in an economical and sustainable way, Share to Wear, an on-campus initiative led by Linley Shaw '17 and Charlotte Reider-Smith '19, allows students to temporarily lend out their dresses to other students for a small rental fee of $10. Share to Wear then splits the received $10 with the lender, so all players in the exchange are benefited in some way.

Shaw and Reider-Smith conceived of their business at MiddCore, and it is now beginning to take shape on campus. The service relies on participation from the Middlebury community.

Shaw explained that Share to Wear is meant to take advantage of the old and unused clothes in many students' closets.

"Say you have 10 dresses in your closet, maybe you were anticipating formal events or just wanted to wear something nice, but you are realizing you are not wearing any of them as much as thought you would," Shaw said. "Additionally you may have spent a lot of money on these dresses."

Share to Wear allows you to lend out these dresses without having to completely give away the items. At any time during the process of renting or sharing, you decide you want your dress back, Share to Wear will return the piece to you free of charge, no questions asked.

In order to give a dress to Share to Wear, you can email Shaw or Reider Smith and set up a time to have the dresses picked up or to drop them off.

After the dresses are received, Shaw and Reider-Smith label each dress and hang them up on clothing racks. Every dress in Share to Wear's inventory is photographed on a model and posted to their website and Facebook page, so students can browse the dresses at their convenience. Then on Thursdays, Share to Wear hosts pop-up shops.

> ***"There are times when I have a paper or a midterm and I can't focus on Share to Wear those days. I feel like I could be working on Share to Wear every day, all day long, but there is obviously no time for that."***
>
> CHARLOTTE REIDER-SMITH '19
> CO-FOUNDER OF SHARE TO WEAR

At the pop-up shops, students can come peruse the collection, try on dresses, and decide to rent a dress or not. If the pop-up shop conflicts with your schedule, Share to Wear will also set up times to view the dresses by appointment.

Some weekends might bring in $5 for a dress lender, and other weekends maybe nothing. Shaw said last weekend her friend got lucky and made $15. Share to Wear takes time to see a return, but you can take your dress back whenever you desire.

In the summer of 2014, Shaw participated in MiddCore, Middlebury's summer entrepreneurial program in Tahoe, CA., where the roots of "Share to Wear" were planted. After realizing her closet was full of nice, unworn dresses, Shaw thought there must be something better to do with her dresses than accumulate dust in her closet. She figured she wasn't the only one in this situation.

SOPHIE SLOTNICK

Share to Wear takes dresses from students and rents them out to others for a small price.

SOPHIE SLOTNICK

Linley Shaw '17 and Charlotte Reider-Smith '19 co-founded a clothing swap, Share to Wear.

This past summer, Reider-Smith participated in MiddCore as well and had a similar idea to Shaw. Reider-Smith was excited about starting a clothing rental service because she felt like she was always admiring other student's dresses and would often borrow her friend's clothes for formal events. Middcore allowed her to construct a solution for the need of a larger selection of formal wear in college.

At MiddCore, Reider-Smith heard about Shaw's initial idea and reached out to her. The pair met up in San Francisco this past summer, and, over pasta, they discussed the logistics of creating a clothing rental service on campus.

> ***"It really feels successful to us when someone rents a dress who neither of us knows, but heard about Share to Wear and is excited."***
>
> CHARLOTTE REIDER-SMITH '19
> CO-FOUNDER OF SHARE TO WEAR

They both admitted balancing school and Share to Wear responsibilities has not been easy.

"Some weeks are harder than others," Shaw said.

"There are times when I have a paper or a midterm, and I can't focus on Share to Wear those days," Reider-Smith said. "I feel like I could be working on Share to Wear every day, all day long, but there is obviously not the time for that."

Although new issues arise daily, Shaw and Reider-Smith meet numerous times per week and are in constant contact about how to solve the many expected and unforeseen challenges that have popped up in the process of creating Share to Wear.

Shaw and Reider-Smith also met with Rent the Runway (a large scale national version of Share to Wear) in New York City during Fall Break to obtain advice on how to improve Share to Wear. They learned of the necessity of change in the mentality of renting clothes for this type of service to be successful.

"We are used to renting houses and cars, but renting clothes is still a foreign idea," said Reider-Smith. "We need to get people to understand it as a normal behavior."

So far the Middlebury community has been fairly receptive to Share to Wear, with over 15 dress rentals on their first weekend, and interest in the business is growing.

"It really feels successful to us when someone rents a dress who neither of us know, but heard about Share to Wear and is excited," Reider-Smith said.

Shaw and Reider-Smith are adamant about creating an inclusive environment around their rental service. Anyone can share a dress, and anyone can rent a dress.

The Share to Wear team also aims to foster a sense of community between people sharing clothes. When they were taking photos of the clothes, they made many people wear the same dress to prove that different people with different body types can all look great in the same outfit.

Shaw and Reider-Smith are currently looking for an available working space, then they plan to update the website so rentals can be made online. Eventually they hope to create a kit that can be shared with other schools so they too can set up their own clothing rental service.

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"What Do WikiLeaks and Russia Want? Cybersecurity and Elections 2016"

by Allison Stanger, Russell J. Leng '60 Professor of International Politics and Economics, Middlebury College.
Tuesday, 11/15, 12:30–1:15 p.m., RAJ
***RSVP by Sunday, November 13.**

"Normalizing US-Cuban Relations: The Obama Legacy"

by Peter Kornbluh, Senior Analyst at the National Security Archives.
TUESDAY, 11/15, 4:30 p.m., RAJ

Black Lives Matter at

Reporting by Henry Burnett,
Renee Chang and Hye-Jin Kim
Designed by Cordelia Prouvost

Introduction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE ...systemic racism and unconscious bias in policing are gaining traction at institutions of higher learning across the country, and suggest that the battle for equality is far from won. Below we have strived to present a sampling of different responses students have offered in response to questions about King's talk and the role of Black Lives Matter at the College. We have also included a list of movies and books that campus activists recommended for students who seek to gain a deeper understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement and institutionalized oppression.

Voices from *beyond the green*

**beyond the green* is an online student publication that "seeks to provide space for voices that are not being heard on our campus." For more, check out https://beyondthegreenmidd.wordpress.com/

Excerpt from "We Are Only Alums" by Afi Yellow-Duke '15 and Jackie Park '15, published 2/25/2016

"To open a paper and see what language was passed off as a 'debate' or an "intellectual exercise" on a given week became an absurd sort of game, a game where we laughed at the words only to keep from crying in public. These 'op-eds' were reminders that our well-being did not matter, that our peers found our bodies and our cultures unimportant or uncomfortable, that we did not belong ... We remember the days where we steeled ourselves to go to class with *that* person, the same person who just published their contempt for having to respect their classmates ... We remember hearing people we thought were our friends say that they didn't see color, that our sexual orientations were a phase, or that talking about our financial struggles made them feel uncomfortable .... We remember the times we got in trouble with our professors for calling out other students' racist remarks by telling us that we need to practice "calling in" rather than calling out. Or when our professors checked on the white student after class, but showed no concern for how our humanity felt disregarded, once again."

Excerpt from "The Unbearable Whiteness of Outdoor Spaces at Middlebury" by Anahi Naranjo '17, published 10/25/2016

"Growing up, the Andes of Ecuador was my backyard. Then, my outdoor space transformed into the urban jungle of New York City. These were my outdoor spaces, and I loved them. Yet here at Middlebury, my story struggled to thrive in the constructed notions of what it meant to be an 'outdoorsperson' and what that person should look like ... From having one of the former Brooker (the college's outdoor interest house) presidents bring up affirmative action in a discussion explaining why I was not given a spot in the house to hiking in the Adirondacks and having a man tell me that I looked like a "little Sherpa", there are several times in my time at Middlebury that have made me question my place in this common natural space ... I became ashamed of my own identity, even in other realms of the outdoor community: I did not feel good enough. Would I have been accepted if I had grown up with more outdoor experience? If I hiked more? Would they have wanted me if I wasn't so vocal about outdoor exclusion? And the question that hurt the most to think about: would I have gotten in if I was white? ... The story of Middlebury's outdoor community (that extends far beyond what I briefly describe) is not unique. There are many spaces on this campus many are hesitant to enter. This is only a tiny puzzle piece in the larger one that is to create more inclusive spaces at Middlebury College. It will take time and work from all of us, but most importantly, for individuals to challenge their notions of what it means to be part of an oppressive space even if they don't perceive themselves as such."

at Midd

Wondering what to do next to make Middlebury more inclusive?

- Take **classes** that critically examine political and social systems of power.Visit the Anderson Freeman Center and support events hosted by students of color.
- Encourage MCAB to invite **speakers** to campus affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement, i.e. its founders Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi.

The Essentials

Movies to Watch

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution (2016)
- Award-winning PBS documentary on the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party in the turbulent 1960s. It parallels the Black Panthers with today's social justice movements and the lessons that might be co-opted about agitating for change. Available for check-out at Davis Family Library

Abroad at Home: Accounts of the Invisible (2014)
- A short 20-minute documentary made by Tim Garcia '14. Available on Vimeo: http://sites.middlebury.edu/graduatethoughts/

13th (2016)
- Sheds light on America's history of racial oppression and the effects of mass incarceration on communities of color and recommended by Shaun King.

Books and Articles to Read

"The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander (2010)
- Examines how systemic racism is responsible for the rise of mass incarceration and the role of modern politicians in crafting these racist policies.

"A Vision for Black Lives"
- Articulates goals and policy-based solutions from the Movement for Black Lives on www.m4bl.org

Retention and Graduation Rate at Middlebury

Data comes from the 2015 Student Profile report. The report did not include retention rates for students beyond their first-year. For scale: Middlebury's student population was 3.1 percent black, or 80 students total, in 2015.

First-Year Retention (September–September)

YEAR	Black/African American Students	Overall Students of Color	All Students
2014-2015	92%	98%	97%
2013-2014	83%	96%	96%
2012-2013	95%	99%	95%
2011-2012	100%	99%	97%
2010-2011	89%	92%	95%

Six-Year Graduation Rates

YEAR ENTERED	Black/African American Students	Overall Students of Color	All Students
2009	100%	94%	94%
2008	91%	93%	94%
2007	94%	94%	94%
2006	78%	88%	94%
2005	69%	91%	93%

Student Reactions to Sean King's Talk

Erin Winseman '17
"He had an ability to at once remain candid and conversational, at times even making us laugh, while stressing moments of extreme injustice. The latter half of the night — his responses to questions — resonated most deeply with me. He pulled stories from his own life that illustrated the everyday nature of power structures, reflexive defensiveness and the essentiality of awareness and then of action — not by those harmed, but by those harming."

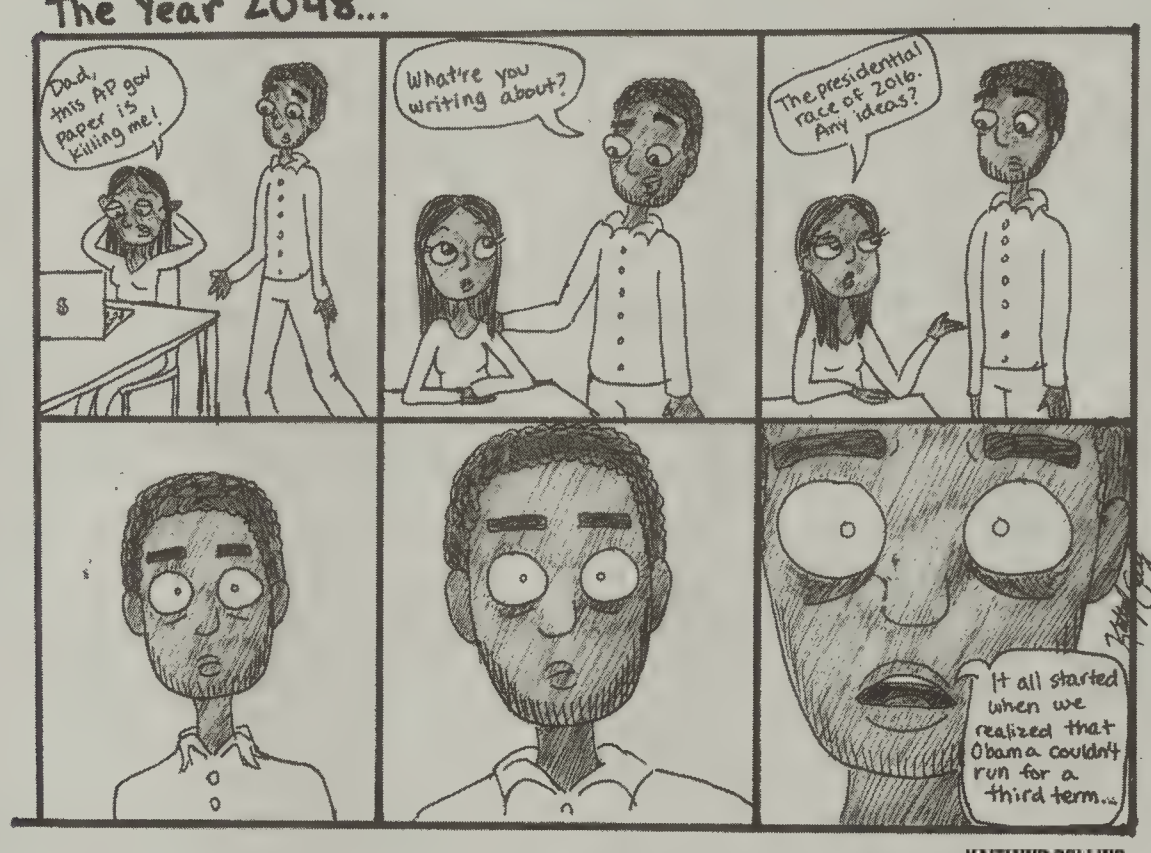
Cindy Esparza '17
"I really liked that King made clear it wasn't students of color who perpetuate racism, so they shouldn't have the burden of fixing it. It's not the responsibility of the oppressed."

Rebecca Ambachew '19
"He did bring up some interesting points, but I've heard that before. I basically heard it presented differently but it was the same thing. What I expected was more on the movement and what he thinks we should do to move forward. I would have thought that this campus might have known a little bit more about this because there's a lot of discussions that happen around race, but I guess not. Regardless, I know that him coming here and making that speech did hit a couple people, even if it's not me."

Hana Gebremariam '17
"These videos over-sensationalized or dramatized what it means to be racist. They were extreme forms of racism. But that's not what we deal with on the daily. He didn't address the covert racism of New England."

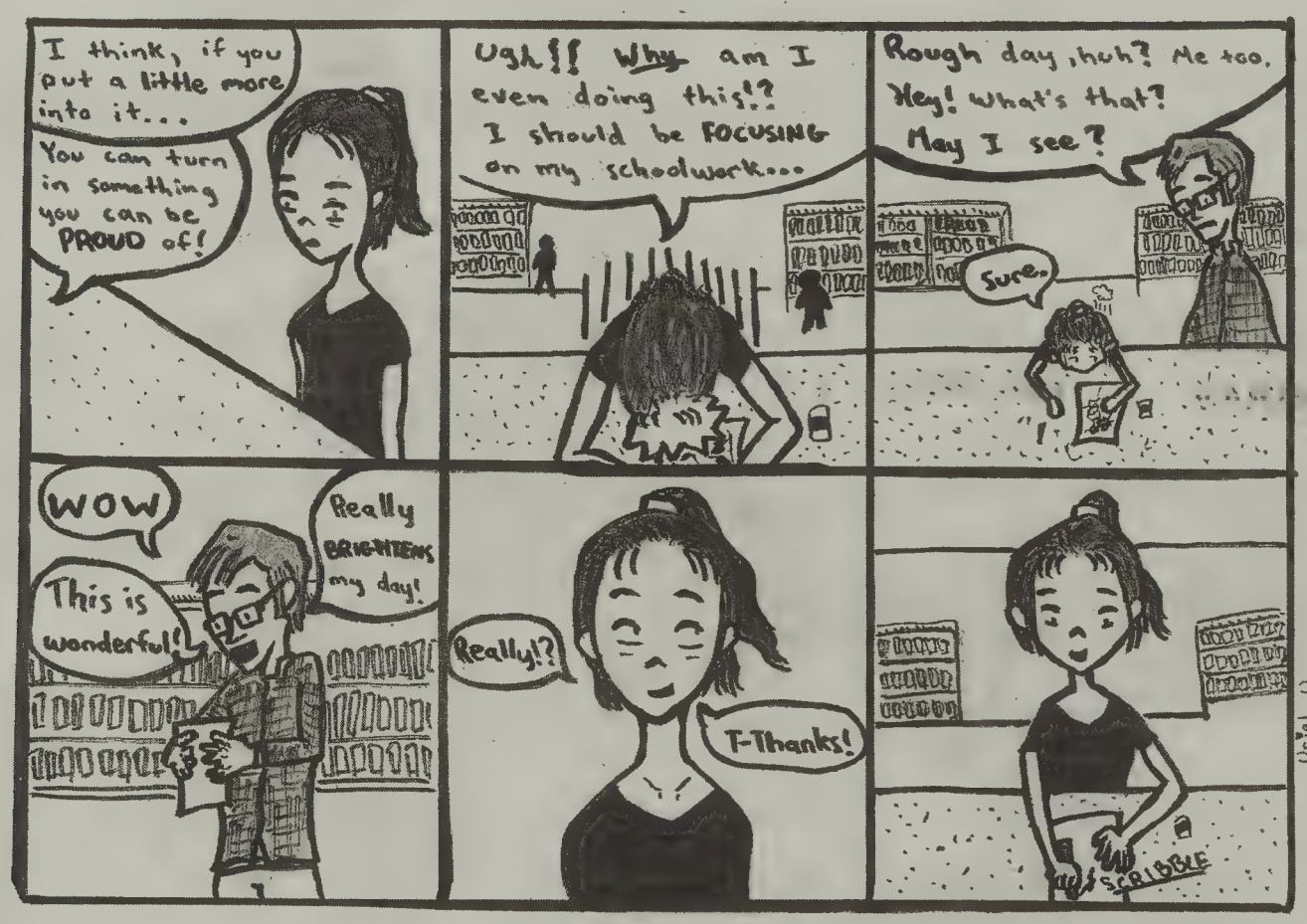
CARTOONS

The Middlebury Campus

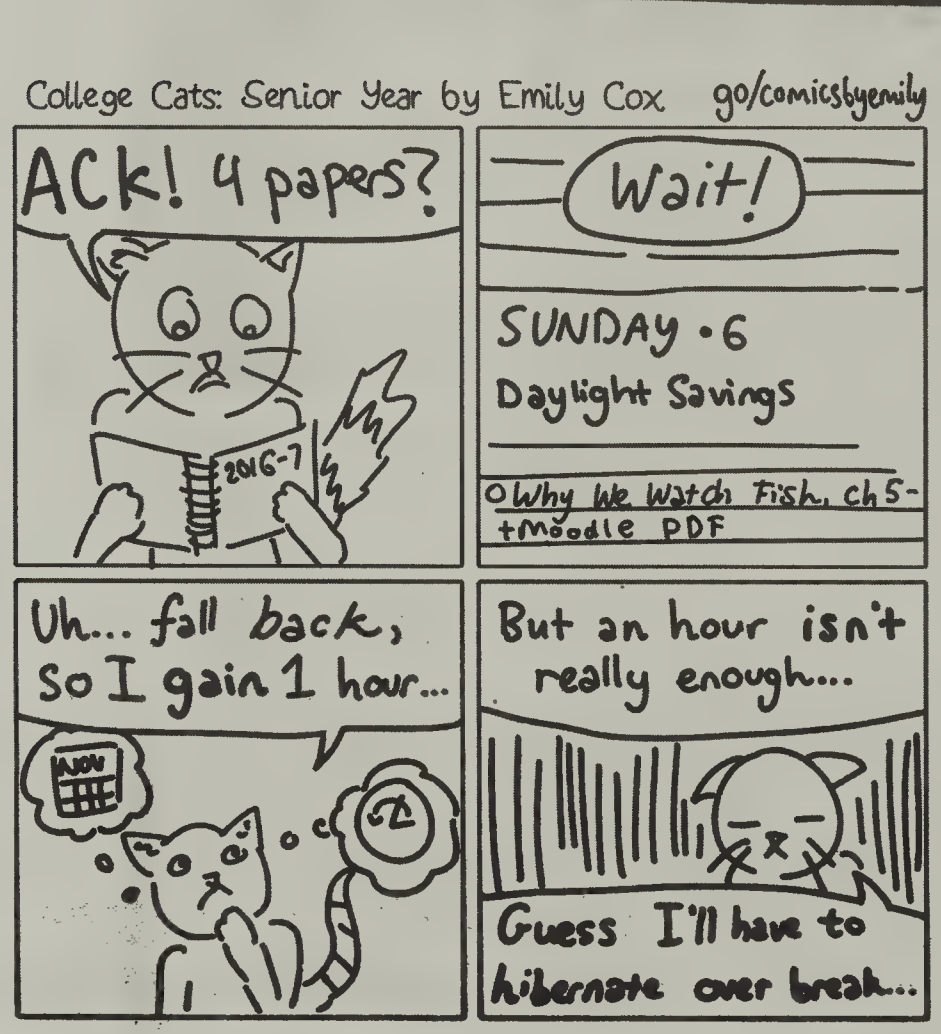

The Year 2048...
Dad, this AP gov paper is killing me!
What're you writing about?
The presidential race of 2016. Any ideas?
It all started when we realized that Obama couldn't run for a third term...

KAITLYND COLLINS

WIN HOMER


I think, if you put a little more into it...
You can turn in something you can be PROUD of!
Ugh!! Why am I even doing this!? I should be FOCUSING on my schoolwork...
Rough day, huh? Me too. Hey! What's that? May I see?
Sure.
WOW
This is wonderful!
Really BRIGHTENS my day!
Really!?
T-Thanks!
SCRIBBLE
Uriel U.

URIEL ULLOA ADAN


College Cats: Senior Year by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily
ACk! 4 papers?
2016-7
Wait!
SUNDAY • 6
Daylight Savings
Why We Watch Fish, ch 5- tMoodle PDF
Uh... fall back, so I gain 1 hour...
NOV
But an hour isn't really enough....
Guess I'll have to hibernate over break...

NOLAN ELLSWORTH

TEDx Middlebury

PLAYING THE GAME

NOVEMBER 13th, 2016
10 AM - 1:30 PM
CFA CONCERT HALL
Tickets @ Middlebury BOX OFFICE
BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

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GEN. ADMISSION $20.00

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x = independently organized TED event

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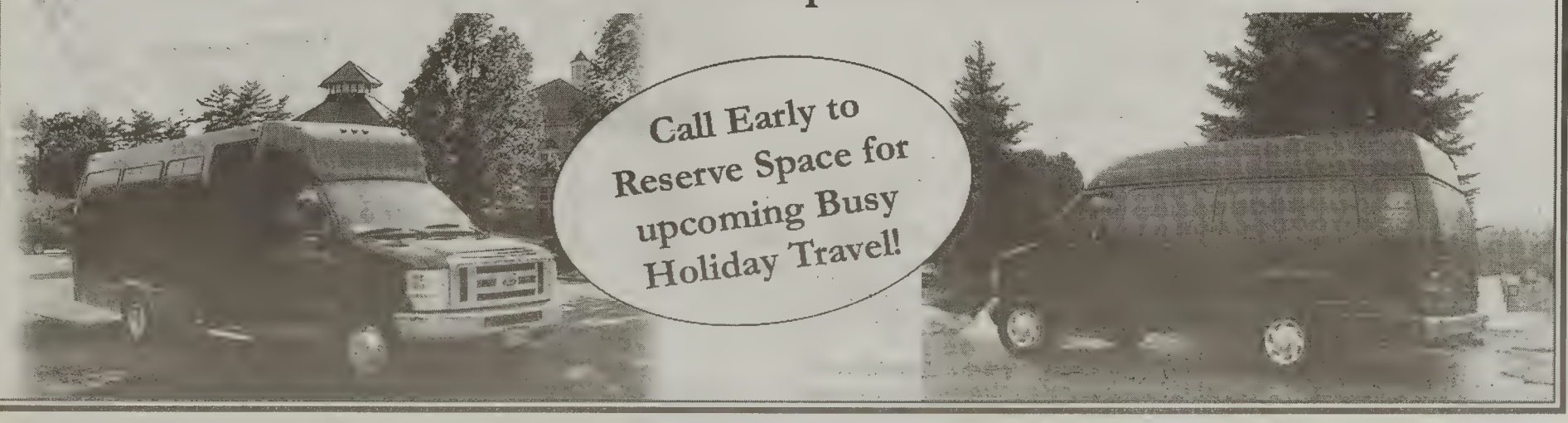


Alumna Writes on Sex and Surveillance

By Elizabeth Zhou
Arts & Sciences Editor

Among the attendees of the first ever Feminist Alumnx Retreat this weekend was Melian Radu '13, a former English and American Literatures major with a focus in Creative Writing and Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies and a Sociology minors. A recent MFA graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Radu has been featured in *Vetch*, the first literary journal devoted to poetry by transgender writers. The mission statement of *Vetch* is to "help bring into the world trans poetry that does not feel the need to translate itself for a cis audience."

On Friday, Nov. 4, Radu performed in an intimate poetry reading, which included such works as "Premortuary School," "How Much Google Will You Do, Gull?" and "The Part of the Penal Code Which Applied to Drag Queens Was Section 240.35, Subsection 4." Her work offers commentary on technology, intimacy and surveillance. She is currently working on her debut manuscript at her new home in L.A.

The Middlebury Campus had the opportunity to speak with Radu on her experiences at the College, the inspiration behind her poetry and her recent publication in *Vetch*.

Middlebury Campus (MC): How did you start writing poetry?
Melian Radu (MR): I was interested in writing as long as I could remember, but I figured I could do novels. I wanted to write fantasy novels – I still want to write fantasy novels – but my junior year of high school, I was like, "I want to improve the descriptive writing in my fiction. All the imagery is very bland, and poetry is about cool images, so I'll write some poems to practice." And from there I tried poetry and never went back.

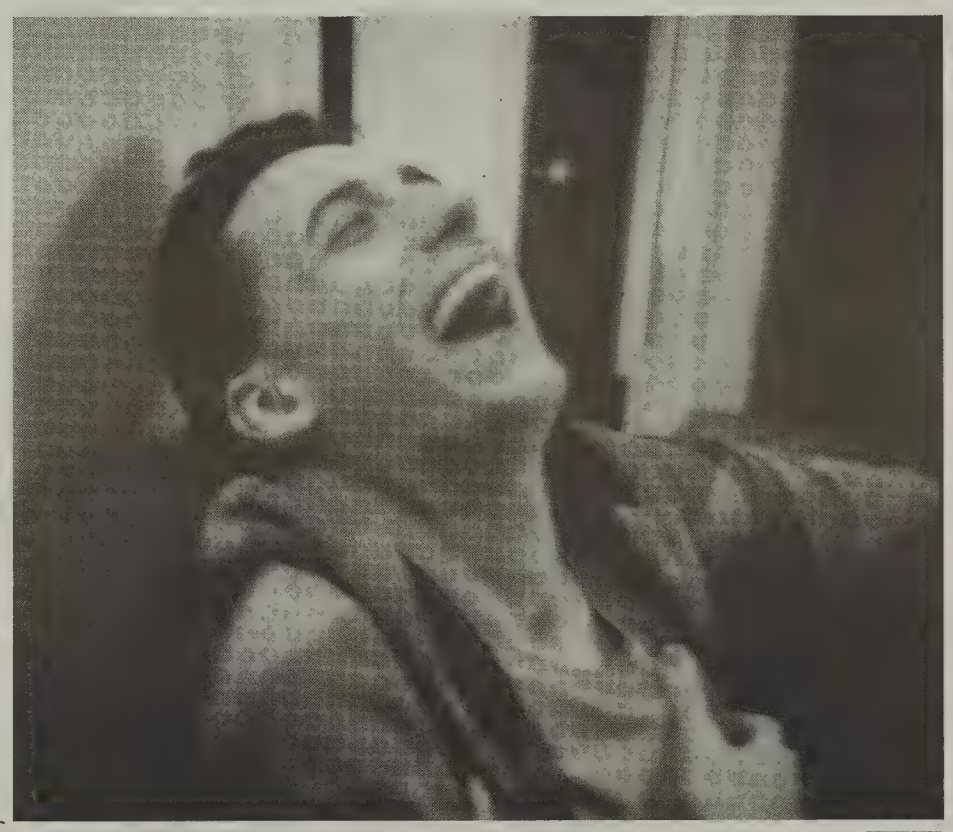
The most serious-ish poem I can remember writing that year was inspired by the movie *The Brave One* with Jodi Foster, which at the time I didn't have much of a political-ish, theoretical sense of. But now that I look back, it speaks deeper. It's a vigilante justice sort of movie, where her husband's long-term partner is mugged and the system fails to do anything about it, so she sort of takes it into her own hands. It's sort of this somewhat feminist-y, action-y, dark, intense thriller. So I felt compelled, I guess, to write a poem about that and explore what her motivations were.

MC: How did your studies in literature, gender studies and sociology intersect with your writing?
MR: The more I got into critical theory and whatnot, the more it kind of came into my poetry. And my undergraduate thesis was about true incidents, mostly, of people attacking or in some way damaging works of art – even though I do have rather a suspicion of poetry. I've seen lots of poetry that wants to be political and therefore ends up not being very interesting or poetic.

So yeah, that thesis, whenever I mention it to people, I guess the contrast was pretty immediate. People were like, "Oh my gosh, someone would blow up the statue or they would splash acid on this famous painting or punch a hole in a Monet? Like, that's disgusting, how horrible. That's worse than, like, beating somebody up. They should be in prison for that." That, to me, is horrifying.

So I guess the concern at the center of it was, of course I like art. I love these classic works. But at the same time, I also, in the end, place a lot of value, more value, I can come right out and say it, on human life. So when I see people being actually in prison for long periods of time or whatnot for these things, it immediately unsettles me. I was interested in exploring that sort of contradiction in those poems.

MC: Do you see your poetry as a form of activism?
MR: I draw some line in the sense of, I want to write poetry that's interesting and effecting change or affecting a person. But I do have a distrust of people who want to see their poetry as the first and foremost activist thing they do.



MELIAN RADU

Melian Radu '13 was published in *Vetch*, the first journal of trans-authored poetry.

I mean, I see ways in which it's worked, and I guess it relates to my own work a lot, but there was a particular discussion a few years ago of drone poetics. Like, we have this dislike of this uprising drone usage, drone warfare, so we're gonna write these poems in the sense of, we're gonna look back at the state, we're gonna surveil them. Our poems will be like little drones watching over the government or something. I don't know, you can hear my skepticism – like, are these poems gonna be read to people in the government? Are they gonna suddenly be like, "President Obama's gonna realize what terrible thing drones are and stop using them to bomb small children?" I doubt it.

The people who write these poems probably do other things as well, but I guess I would be skeptical of anyone who thought that was the first and foremost way we're gonna have impact. As one tool in a toolbox, great, I guess that's the bottom line of it. But I like concrete action for sure. I like very much that I was able to write poems that said interesting, cool things while I was at Middlebury, and I also did other things that would have concrete effects.

MC: Your work will be featured in the newest issue of *Vetch*. Can you speak more on nature of this publication?
MR: It's the first publication primarily of trans-authored poetry, at least on an ongoing basis. [The editors] are very much interested in the idea of what is it like to write poetry from a trans perspective. Every issue seems to have a great theme they bring up to anyone who's submitting, with a broader concern that's also rooted in a trans experience. This new one that's coming out, they gave us "ekphrasis" – literal Greek – which is looking at something, describing something, in the oldest classical sense. The perfect ekphrasis sense is, you look at a statue, describe it in words, and then someone who saw those words would have the exact same experience as the person who looked at the statue. Now, that perfect description is kind of tough to pull off, but it's the idea of work that responds to something that you see.

MC: What inspires your poetry?
MR: What I do like about *Vetch* in their mission is a way to engage a trans identity in a way that is not totalizing. It's not all about that. It is nice to be able to expand outward. Like, yes, we're trans, we're writing from that experience, but also there's a lot more than that going on. It's very rare for me to write a poem anymore that is about my gender dysphoria or something, but certainly it's in there. I mean, I do write a lot about sex and nudes and whatnot. So it's really shot through with a lot of queer sexuality. But technology is really the driving force.

MC: What is one piece of advice you would give to an aspiring poet?
MR: This may be overly prescriptive, but I know it worked well for me and I've given it to a lot of people: to very aggressively pursue change or avoid sameness in their writing. Very much my Middlebury writing career was gradually trying a new thing in every poem. If the last two poems were first person, this one's gonna be third person. I haven't written a formal one in a while, so I'm gonna do a villanelle [a 19-line poem with two repeating rhymes and two refrains]. This one's from my own perspective about my life, but now I'm gonna do a persona poem from somebody else's poem.

Avoid getting caught up in a "this is my style" if you want to develop a voice. That's a concern that people have and I very much had at one point – and did I really develop a voice? I don't know. I guess people say, "That sounds like you, that's unique, so that's a voice" – but what is, anyway?

MC: What would you say to anyone interested in your work?
MR: That they should feel free to jump at the chance to critique it. Because it is very much in constant flux, and I am always more than ready to have somebody say, "No. Not working. On any number of levels." Which can be creative or, "No, I think the way that you engage with surveillance is overly informed by this particular idea you have that is inaccurate. Because there are other aspects to how technology shapes people's lives in ways you're not considering." Because poetry is very much informed by one's perspective and mine has those limitations. I'm always interested in exploring and plugging holes in, but also expanding in different ways.

PEER REVIEW
by Melian Radu

Your dog dies and you give him to
Science. You do this with all your things.
On a hook on the wall of the study

glints Journal of Microbiotics: Science
saw fat content in the rate your ice
cream melted. His study has reduced

obesity and was widely hailed in Europe.
Winter was hard, with Science taking
up the whole couch. Poor St. Nicholas—

your parakeet whose body you gave
to Science who gave it back: Husk is
husk, he said. There is nothing to learn from this.

When the ice thaws you think you will sink
Nick to Belize. Science is getting a PhD
in psychoanalysis and asks: Who are the men

in your life? What else will you give me?
I am hungry and could eat nine cigars.
Your dog has died but his stem cells
cure your SAD. Science will save you yet.

DON'T MISS THIS

Middlebury College Orchestra
Andrew Massey conducts the College Orchestra in a fall concert featuring Mozart's Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, Grainger's Colonial Song, Milhaud's Murder of a Great Chief of State and Mendelssohn's Overture to Ruy Blas.
11/11, FRIDAY, 8 P.M., MCA CONCERT HALL

TEDxMiddlebury: Playing the Game
A TEDx event is a local, independently-organinzed gathering where live TED-like talks and videos previously recorded at TED conferences are shared with the community. The theme of TEDxMiddlebury 2016 is "Playing the Game."
11/13, SUNDAY, 10 A.M.-1:30 P.M., MCA CONCERT HALL

Middlebury African Music and Dance Ensemble
The music of this student ensemble demonstrates the study of many musical Africanisms: musical conversation, structured improvisation and tonal variations. These stylistic elements serve as markers of cultural, social, political and religious lifeways in Africa.
11/15, TTUESDAY, 8 P.M. , MCA CONCERT HALL

Gender Politics in *Late: A Cowboy Song*

By Dominick Tanoh
Arts & Sciences Editor

Playwright Sarah Ruhl once described her play *Late: A Cowboy Song* as a "love letter to butch women everywhere." With that in mind, the cast and crew set out to produce a play that prides itself on its subversion of gender norms.

From Nov. 3-5, *Late* was featured in the Hepburn Zoo. The show was directed by Rebecca Coates-Finke '16.5 as the finale of her theatre career at the College.

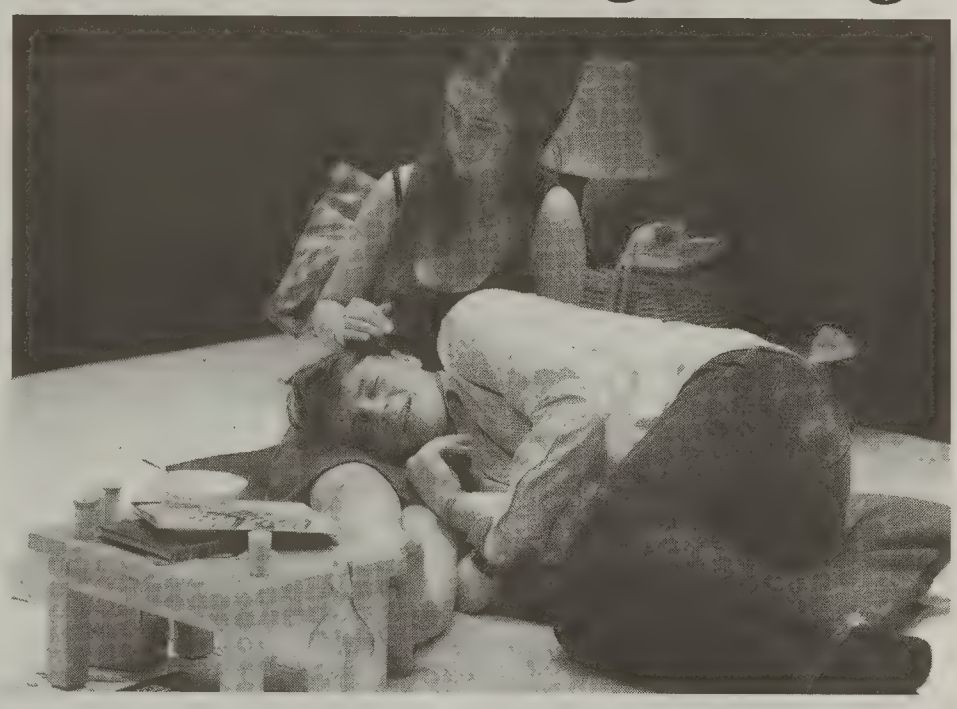
When asked what the show was about, Coates-Fink responded with a brief smile of confusion as she remarked that that was "a good question." She soon shared that the story focuses on the lives of Mary and Crick, played by Katie Weatherseed '16.5 and Connor Wright '18 respectively.

The couple had been together since grade school, but eventually the domestic pressure and ennui of life with Crick drives Mary to spend time with Red, played by Addie Mahdavi '17, an old friend who happens to live on the outskirts of Pittsburgh as a cowboy. Red's identity as a butch woman working in a traditionally masculine profession and the eventual conflict between Mary and Crick about their child's name and gender identity serve to make this play a truly engaging foray into gender politics.

According to Coates-Finke, "a lot of beautiful questions come up around gender [and] about time and how time moves."

She went on to note that "the biggest thing that this play is about is the possibilities of a world bigger than the boxes we end up in. The visual image of the horizon is really big in the show, and [it represents] a space of possibility".

Late represents an effort by Ruhl to break expectations on the roles certain people are expected to take in the theatre world. While discussing the industry, Coates-Finke noted the rift between "good theatre" that offered diverse and supportive networks for performers and "evil theatre" that institutionalizes bias toward specific roles for specific people. In its past, theatre has helped to share ideas of stock characters that present derogatory stereotypes on race and gender. These tropes simplify the expectations the audience may have of these characters and make it more difficult to share compelling and original perspectives.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Connor Wright '18 and Katie Weatherseed '16 played married couple Mary and Crick.

MAXWELL LESLIE

Late: A Cowboy Song experimented with ideas of gender identity and politics.

Plays like *Late* serve as efforts to complicate the perceptions of gender conformity and present complex gender ideas to the larger campus community. In addition, it represented a chance for Coates-Finke to end her college career with a "subversion of stock characters and the subversion of connecting certain bodies with certain attributes or ideas."

Plays like this also serve to carve out spaces where queer perfomers can assert their experiences on stage. Originally, expectations for what perfomers could look like allowed for the majority of queer characters to be played by cis-gender actors and actresses. Beginning with fringe theatre companies, more and more avenues are being created to allow performers with different backgrounds to more accurately express onstage identities.

While commenting on her experience with the play, Coates-Finke noted that her first readings left her confused due to the complexity of these social ideas and the added challenge of open-ended characters and scene directions. As more time was invested in the work, she found herself even more excited to engage with the open ended nature of this play.

The small ensemble created a safe space to explore these ideas. Coates-Finke commented that before this play, she had only worked with larger casts of around 10 people. Working with a three-person cast and small crew created an opportunity for the director to sharpen her skills on a more personalized level, and gave an intimate finale to her life with Middlebury theatre.

BOOKING IT

By Gabrielle Owens
Senior Columnist

When you're wandering around a bookstore and you see a title like *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, you have to at least check it out. When you flip it open to see things like "Rules and Suggestions for Enjoyment of This Book" and that the introduction ends simply, "Here is a drawing of a stapler" with an ink drawing of a stapler underneath, you know you've found a book worth reading, whether or not it's good, because it is sure to at least be different from anything else you've read recently.

A HEARTBREAKING WORK OF STAGGERING GENIUS BY DAVE EGGERS

A Heartbreaking Work is one of those books that is difficult to judge objectively, because its narrative is so stylized and so outside the norm that people are likely going to have strong and wildly different reactions to it based on personal preference. Those who find novels that do not follow the normal conventions of structure and storytelling interesting or at least tolerable will almost certainly come away with something positive after reading it, while those who prefer their books a bit more traditional may well hate every second of it.

It is semi-autobiographical, more or less following the story of the 22-year-old protagonist, Dave Eggers, who is left to care for his little brother Christopher after their parents both die of cancer within five weeks of each other. While the chronology is more or less stable, the story wanders all over the place, rarely keeping a clear focus, often in a stream of consciousness, with no real overarching plot, climax, or resolution. It dives instead into various strange and sometimes unbelievable vignettes. The narrator will ramble on and on without regard for proper grammar or storytelling structure.

At one point, he creates a fake interview transcript to include various tidbits of stories he would not otherwise get to tell. Yet, as much as this all sounds like an unfocused, lazy, at best bizarre study of a book, all of this is intentional and works brilliantly. All of that rambling, all of the odd and apparently inconsequential tangents and details, make you feel like you are standing right beside the narrator and living every single moment with him.

I think it is less accurate to say that I read this book than that I experienced this book. You are taken along for the ride every second. When the narrator is describing an exhilarating summer full of driving and wild games and bursting with life, you feel breathless by the end of it. His fantasies about him and Christopher conquering the world together may make practically no sense and last for pages without advancing any kind of plot. Yet you feel the excitement right along with him, as if you too were there, magically escaping exploding cars and living life on top of the world. What he and Christopher imagine may have little to do with reality, but you enjoy the imaginative high regardless.

At another point, the narrator gets panicked about the possibility that a babysitter he has hired for Christopher will murder his little brother while he is gone. Despite the fact that you, as the reader, know this is impossible because you know that's not how the novel ends, and know that it was not even likely to happen in the first place, you still feel every degree of the narrator's slowly rising panic. When the real world does come crashing in on these two, you feel the cold shock of reality intruding on fantasy just as acutely as the narrator does. This is not a book that you can sit back and enjoy passively: you live it.

I think it is less accurate to say that I read this book than that I experienced this book. You are taken along for the ride every second. When the narrator is describing an exhilarating summer full of driving and wild games and bursting with life, you feel breathless by the end of it.

This book is also bitingly, hilariously self-aware and self-referential. From the opening deconstructed preface, acknowledgements and the aforementioned *Rules for Enjoyment*, the book instantly chooses not to take itself too seriously. The title is a joke more than anything, an homage to the egotism of youth. The book makes fun of its own pretentiousness and inherent self-importance. It both treasures and mocks the belief of its bright-eyed twenty-something characters that not only can they change the world but that they are destined to. It condemns naïveté, but starts by asking the indulgence of the reader to remember the author was young and certainly considered himself more important than he really was – and that we all have done the same, at some point.

Reading this book is an experience like to no other book I have encountered. By turns exhilarating, terrifying, depressing, viscerally unpleasant and uplifting, it leaves behind a whirlwind of emotions hard to follow, let alone analyze. Wherever it takes you, this book is unpredictable and guaranteed to generate some kind of response. Some people may adore it, others may hate it to their very core, but either way it will not leave you quite the same as it found you. Find it at the library at go/bookingit.

MIDD MOUTH: FEATURING PETER LINDHOLM

By Matthew Blake
Featuring Peter Lindholm

This week's Midd Mouth poet is Peter Lindholm. Peter is a Senior Feb English Major and Film Minor from Cornwall, Vermont. He is on the Poetry Board for the literary magazine Blackbird *and is the head writer for Middlebury Discount Comedy. Here are some of Peter's reflections on poetry and his relationship to the written word:*

Matthew Blake (MB): How would you describe your creative process?

Peter Lindholm (PL):): If I had to describe my creative process in one euphemism, I think I would have to go with "spur of the moment." Most often I will have a line in my head, sometimes for several days. The line can be inspired by something else I've read for class, an image that moved me during the day, a current event, or even a conversation that I had with someone. In that moment, I HAVE to get at least that one line down on paper, or else I risk losing it (memory is far from my strong suit.) From there, when I find the time, I sit down and write the poem around that line. There is very little rhyme or reason in where that line ends up in the poem; I've had the building line be the opening words of the poem and the end, but my creative process certainly grows out of those singular opening words.

MB: How would you describe your relationship to poetry?

PL: My relationship to poetry is a relatively recent, but it deeply affects my life. My mother, Brett Millier, is an English professor here at Middlebury who specializes in poetry (hi mom!), so my whole life I've had the vague, genetic impression that poetry is important. However, for much of my teenage life I found poetry inaccessible, partially due to the lack of contemporary poets we read in high school. My appreciation of language wasn't nuanced enough to get past the complicated vernacular of classical sonnets and Walt Whitman. However, my mother would not allow her son to go through life thinking poetry was too hard, so she introduced me to Billy Collins (literally introduced me, he came to speak at Middlebury). I found his language so simple and yet so engaging. Every word was carefully crafted and placed so perfectly that he didn't need to use long, rambling lines. When the desire to write on my own began to boil inside of me in my senior year of high school, poetry in the style of Billy Collins was the avenue that best expressed the feelings I wished to put on paper, poetry that could express deep emotion in simple phrases and structures. I use poetry to feel close to my mother, to express

Pretty Girl in A Hot Classroom

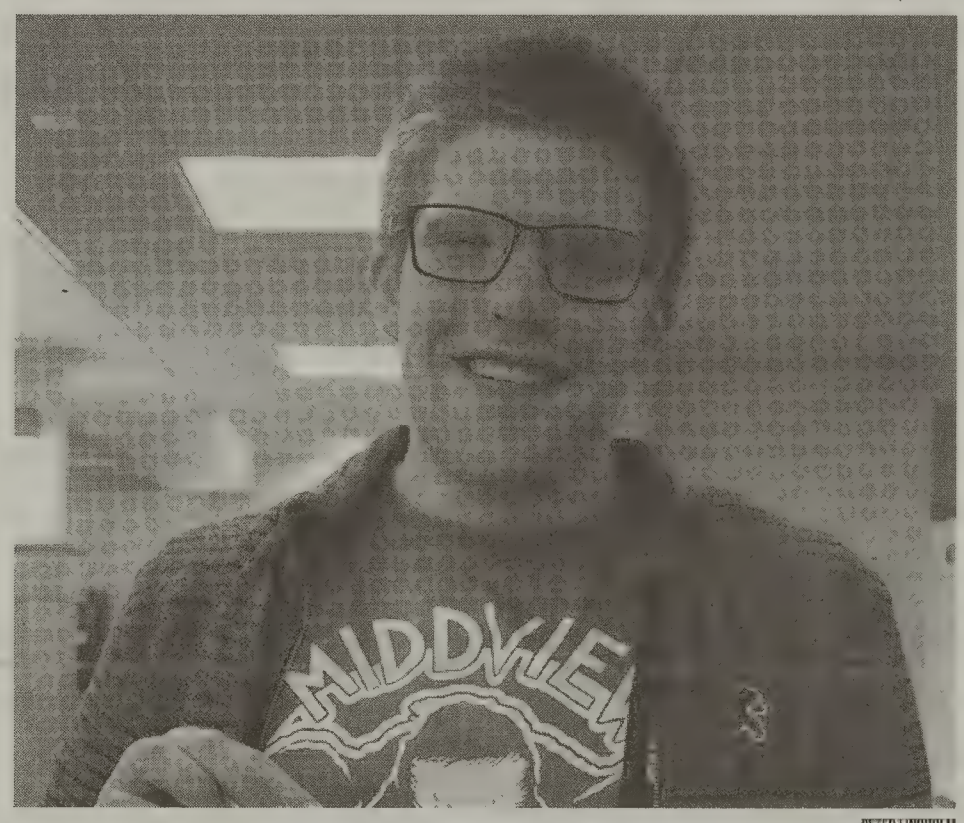
I'm sickened by the feeling of cool
dampness in my underarms. Gross
little larvae sprout from the hairs
and slide languidly down my side,
staining my shirt.

I worked hard to pick out this shirt,
rifled through my closet with the color
and texture of my pants constantly on my mind.
This shirt made my shoulders pop and slimmed my waist,
and I could hold pens in the front breast pocket.

There's something symmetrical about pens
in a front breast pocket. I like the way the sharp
handles line up on the lip like a white picket fence
in a kindly older couple's front yard.

The shirt I chose was blue, the pen's black
like powerful navy boats patrolling the unruly sea,
and the sandy brown khakis were the beach.

But now the ensemble is ruined by stormy clouds
of oily fear-sweat, thanks to your flowing brown hair
and the way your bare shoulders slope backwards
when you yawn.



PETER LINDHOLM

English Major and Film Minor Peter Lindholm '17.5 reflects on his creative process.

PERFORMING ARTS SPOTLIGHT: DAVID TORN

By Connor Forrest
Senior Columnist

His name is David Torn. And he's going to rock your brain.

Do you like weird? Do you like... funky? Do you like incredible music? David Torn is a guitarist so experimental, Dr. Frankenstein came to him for advice. So wacky, he played as David Bowie's sideman. So talented, he's contributed to some of the most noteworthy films of the millennia, including *The Big Lebowski*. And this Wednesday, he's coming to the College to give a performance of solo electric guitar improvisions. It'll be melodic and a very good kind of weird.

The New York Times described Torn's 2015 release as, "[an abstract landscape that is] bot immersive and deftly disorienting."

And according to several very famous people:

"Listen to his music in the dark. You will be transported."

"BOOM! Within a minute I was just sitting there, riveted. This guy's twisted ... He's 'The One'."

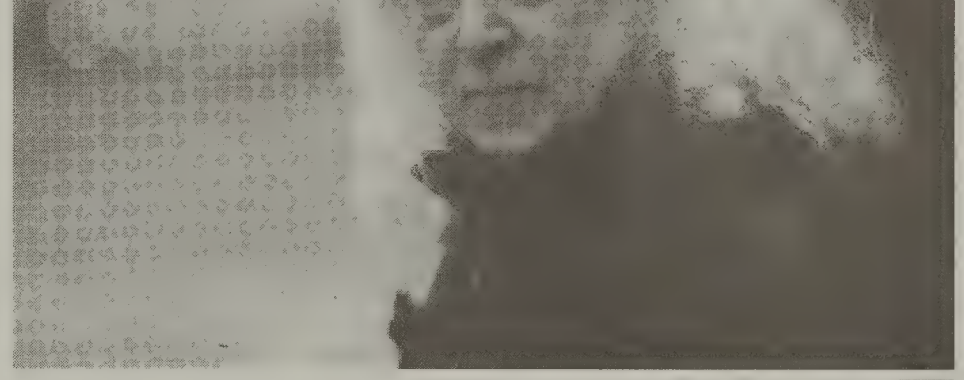
"His work is very spiritual. And has an ephemeral quality that I adore."

In the words of one YouTube commentor:

"The most underrated dude ever."

David Torn's improvised solo guitar performances use looping, technology and "unorthodox" techniqies to create a canvas of sound which he spatters with guitar notes. He describes his performance as "real-time composition, but it's about relaxing into it, enjoying the flow of sound, letting the music happen on its own time — and being open to the unexpected."

What are you waiting for? That's exactly what you need. The performance is 8 p.m. Wednesday night, Nov. 16. And it's completely free. Come by and let the tones and textures and sounds flow over you, it's like meditation but better. Take the time to come enjoy something truly different.



ALLMUSIC

David Torn will perform at the College Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. in the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts' Robison Hall.

HAVE A THOUGHT? WANT TO COMMENT?

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Student Band Performs Eclectic Tunes

By John Gosselin
Contributing Writer

Eclectic and entertaining, The Big Sip has played a mix of jazz, funk, rock and soul more than half a dozen times this semester. Their work is made more impressive by the fact that the group is composed entirely of first-year students: Jack Cattabiani, Matt Diener, Evan Mercer, Nick Schrope and Jack Herscowitz.

Even though the group, which got its name when singer and guitarist Diener tripped and took "a big sip" of pavement, has only existed for a few months, it has found success by taking every opportunity they can to perform for and entertain audiences all around campus. They plan to share their music at more events in the near future.

Bassist Cattabiani explained the serendipitous formation of the band.

"We definitely lucked out," he said. "Evan and I are roommates, and Matt lives down the hall. We jammed in our CRA's room the very first night on campus. Later that week, we met Nick and Jack at a jazz jam and the rest is history."

Since meeting, they have performed at a myriad of locales, including Wednesday Open Mike Night (WOMP) in the Gamut Room, at Brooker House, at the Snowbowl and at President Patton's house for the Trustee's Dinner.

Drummer Mercer said, "[We] take inspiration from Vulfpeck and Cleveland."

These inspirations have affected their work in interesting ways, making them receptive to musical experimentation and considering many genres when they play.

The group has enjoyed playing its electrifying music in front of its diverse audiences for which it tries and succeeds to play the music most fitting for the moment.

Diener said that his favorite moments are "when we get a lot of enthusiasm from a crowd for a song we thought was relatively obscure [and] when people say we did a good job."

Support from their audiences has helped them take their vision and share it with hundreds of people. By taking inspiration and playing music from different musical traditions, the band has created an exciting live performance experience, supplemented by the ambiguity in their repertoire: you never know what they will play next.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Big Sip is a first-year student band devoted to a mix of jazz, funk, rock and soul.

Natural Scenes Featured in "Landscaped"

By Will Simpson
Senior Writer

On Friday, Oct. 4, a small group of students and community members gathered to take a look at the eye-catching landscape photos that have adorned the small gallery outside of Wilson Hall since the end of July. These landscape photographs were part of an exhibition by geographer and local photographer Timothy Case entitled "Landscaped: Altered Environments in the Photography of Timothy Case."

The photos displayed in the exhibition were carefully selected and curated by six Middlebury students involved in the summer Museum Studies internship ("MuseumWorks") at the College's Museum of Art. There to present the works were internship students Claire Borre '18 and Matt Gillis '18, as well as Charles A. Dana Professor of Art and Architecture Kirsten Hoving and Curator of Education and Academic Programs at the art museum, Jason Vrooman. They discussed the curation of the exhibition and Case's works as a whole before answering questions from the audience.

Artist Timothy Case stated that he was impressed by the way in which the students came prepared and attentive.

With only basic guidelines, Case observed that the students "really channeled the thoughts behind my photos and worked the selection process as a team and very diligently."

In fact, Case noted that his own perceptions of his work had changed through working with the MuseumWorks interns.

He added, "I found myself open[ing] up to them and their choices of photos.... They've influenced my thinking about future photo shoots."

The curation of this exhibition was just one part of the museum studies internship. The students were able to work at various locations throughout the week. The process gave the interns an insider's look into how the MCMA curates exhibits.

"I hope the photos and the exhibit text will help viewers see their landscapes a bit more attuned to the impact humans have on the environment."

TIMOTHY CASE
GEOGRAPHER AND LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER

The group of interns also visited the Berkshires in Massachusetts and into New York to expose them to different cultural organizations.

Borre noted that Case was enthusiastically involved in all aspects of the logisictal selection process such as printing, framing and sizing. The student curators had real difficulty with frame choice for the project, explaining the difficulty in measuring the frame, photographs and borders.

They waited until the end of the process to present Case with their finished curatorial narrative.

"It was so rewarding to meet with him again towards the end of the process and have him read what we wrote," Borre said. "It was so exciting to see the artist get excited about what we wrote and thought about his work."

JASON VROOMAN

Students in the Museum Studies internship program selected the exhibition photos.

Landscape is a very visually impressive and varied collection of photographs, with sweeping green landscapes side-by-side with deserts and industrial or urban settings. Three photos depicting the E.L. Smith stone quarry in Graniteville, Vermont, were particularly striking images of human shaping of natural landscapes in a local setting.

Case professed his own favorite piece to be Galesburg Rail, an extra-wide panoramic print of a railyard in Galesburg, Illinois. Composed of 16 individual vertical photos carefully merged in photoshop to create a full panorama, Galesburg Rail was shot in a spot very familiar to Case.

"I hope the photos and exhibit text will help viewers see their landscapes a bit more attuned to the impact humans have on the environment," Case said.

Students will be able to discuss more of these ideas in Case's 2017 winter term class "Landscape: Photography and Geography," which will culminate in an exhibition of student photography.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

Featuring breathtaking natural scenery, "Landscaped: Altered Environments in the Photography of Timothy Case" is located on the second floor of the student center.

Field Hockey Earns Bid to Upcoming National Tournament

By Christine Urquhart
Senior Writer

The women's field hockey team fought their way to victory against Hamilton on Saturday earning Middlebury its sixth-straight and tenth overall appearance in the NESCAC Championship game since the tournament began in 2000. The Middlebury field hockey program is one of the most successful programs in Division III.

"Our program's success comes from our coaching. Coach Katherine DeLorenzo has established a team culture of unity, hard work and positivity that has made the field hockey program at Middlebury so successful for so many years," Lauren Schweppe '18 said.

However, the team was unable to pull off the victory in the championship game, falling to top-seeded Tufts the following day. Despite the loss on Sunday in the championship match, the team still received a bid to the upcoming NCAA Tournament. Last year the Panthers also lost in the conference final but ended up being crowned NCAA DIII Champions.

In Saturday's semi-final match-up, the Panthers had revenge on their mind as they hoped to beat Hamilton (12-5) who had beaten them earlier in the season. When the horn sounded and the game began, Hamilton took charge right away, putting pressure on the Middlebury defense in the first five minutes and receiving two corners and two shots within this time span. One shot was blocked and the other went wide to keep the score at zero.

This was the last time the Panthers were going to let this happen as they began to take control of the game, putting the pressure on Hamilton's defense with two corners and two shots on goal over the next five minutes. It was not until the 12th minute of the game when the Panthers were able to convert.

Annie Leonard '18 took a hard shot which slipped past the pads of Hamilton's goalie and into the net to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead. The remainder of the half consisted mostly of back and forth shots and possession changes between the two teams. Neither team was able to convert their opportunities into a goal until Grace Jennings '19 netted a goal at the 32:29 mark. The scoring opportunity concluded the half and the Panthers went into the locker room with a 2-0 lead.

Hamilton came firing out of the half with a quick goal to cut the Panther lead to 2-1. However, the Panthers quickly responded and regained their two-goal lead as Audrey Quirk '18 launched a shot into the net off an assist by Schweppe.

This goal was the catalyst for a rapid-fire offensive attack from Middlebury as they scored two more goals in a span of 51 seconds to increase the lead to 5-1. Leonard tallied on a pass from Molly Freeman '19 for her team-leading 20th goal of the season while Quirk notched her second goal of the game on a feed from Emma Johns '20.

Hamilton tried to fight back and was able to sneak a goal past the formidable Middlebury defense bringing the score to 5-2 for the final goal of the game for both teams. Emily Miller '17 recorded three saves on the day for the Panthers.

The shot margin favored Middlebury as they finished with a 28-13 advantage and a 15-8 penalty corner advantage. Schweppe added that the team has "spent a lot of time refining our penalty corners which we executed well against Hamilton."

With this win, the team earned their spot in the NESCAC Championships against Tufts. Unfortunately, the team's hopes of a title were crushed as they lost to Tufts 3-1 (16-2) on Sunday.

The Tufts offense started Sunday's game on the attack, getting on the scoreboard just 1:28 into the game. The Panthers responded with two shots on Tufts but neither shot was able to amount to a goal. Following the Middlebury pressure, Tufts regained control receiving a penalty corner at the 10th minute which resulted in a goal to increase their lead to 2-0. The rest of the half remained scoreless despite shot opportunities for both teams.

The Panthers responded in the second half and managed to get on the board at the 46:32 mark. The goal came from Jennings off a pass from Freeman to cut the score to 2-1. Within one, the Panthers were looking to make a comeback, however, Tufts responded with another goal of their own to move the score to 3-1 which would be the final goal of the game. Miller finished with four saves. The Panthers were outshot 13-4 by Tufts.

"There's something you can learn from every game, win or loss, and I think in particular we learned a lot about what we need to work on coming out of the Tufts game," Leonard said. "In particular I think mentality on both offense and defense, and performing skills under intense pressure in a time sensitive situation is something that we will be working on in practice this week."

The team will return to play for the first round of NCAA playoffs for its 14th consecutive and 17th overall appearance on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Messiah College.

Men's Soccer Ends Season With Overtime Loss

By Riley Plant
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury men's soccer team (10-4-3, 4-3-3) saw their season come to a halt on Saturday, Nov. 5, as they fell to fourth-seeded Hamilton (10-6-1, 5-4-1) in overtime during the NESCAC semifinals by a score of 2-1. The Continentals went on to face defending national champion Amherst in Sunday's final where they fell 3-0.

Middlebury's hopes of winning a NESCAC championship were dashed with the loss and they had to wait until Monday, Nov. 7, to see if they would be selected for an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament. For the second straight year, the Panthers got snubbed.

Middlebury opened Saturday's match in fine fashion, notching the first goal at 19:34 on a play that began in the defensive third. Drew Goulart '20 moved the ball past midfield and centered a pass to Daniel O'Grady '19, who took a shot from just outside Hamilton's penalty area. Hamilton goalkeeper Linds Cadwell blocked the shot, but was unable to maintain control as Greg Conrad '17 gobbled up the rebound and knocked it into the net for his fifth goal of the season.

Just 2:38 later, however, Hamilton returned the pressure as Jefri Schmidt headed in the equalizer off a long pass from teammate Mike Lubelczyk.

The Panthers narrowly went ahead with two nice shots by Ben Potter '20 and Goulart, but Cadwell stepped up to block both shots, leaving the score knotted at one headed into the half.

Just three minutes into the second half the Panthers were on the attack again. Goulart found himself with another opportunity, this time finding room at the top of the penalty area. He fired a shot, but Cadwell again denied the opportunity, punching the shot over the crossbar for the Continentals.

Panther goalie Greg Sydor '17 put up a battle of his own from the goal box. In the 53rd minute, a shot from the right side by Lubelczyk was blocked by a diving Sydor. Then only moments later Sydor made a leaping save off another well-placed header from Schmidt to keep the Continentals in check. Sydor's strong performance tied his season high with eight saves.

Hamilton held the edge with 17 shots to Middlebury's 14, both teams placing 11 of them on target. After neither was able to create offensive opportunities during the last half hour, the game headed into a sudden-death overtime.

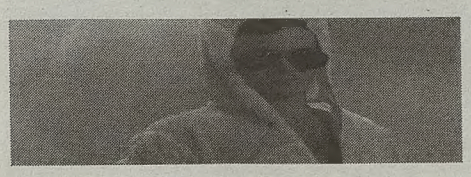
Just two minutes into the overtime period, Hamilton gave the Panthers a scare, as a potential game-winner off the foot of Aidan Ward missed wide of the right crossbar by no more than several inches. The momentum was on Hamilton's side at that point and only a few minutes later a corner kick from Alex Cadet found the foot of Eli Morris who one-touched the pass into the right corner, sending Hamilton into celebration.

"Season was hell of a ride and I'm honored to have played with these guys and under the tutelage of Coach Saward and Coach Elias," senior Kirk Horton '17 said. "The Midd soccer program is the closest community I've ever been a part of and I couldn't have dreamed of anything better when I came in as a freshman. I'm excited to see what this talented group can do in the future and I'll miss every second of playing for this fantastic program. Special thanks to Coach Saward, Coach Elias, our parents, Chris Palmer, Sue Murphy, Dave Campbell and everyone else involved in making the best four years of my life happen."

"Not the result we were looking for on Saturday," said Conrad, who ends his Middlebury career with 27 goals, the sixth-most in program history.

"Hamilton came to play and you got to give them credit for their work rate and determination," Conrad continued. "We had our moments to put the game to rest, but didn't capitalize on our opportunities. Unfortunately, we didn't get the NCAA bid we were hoping for today either. We had a very good year, but just came up short in a few games that we really needed. In a league like the NESCAC, the margin for error is so small that every point counts."

EDITORS' PICKS

	Women's Volleyball: Will the Panthers take down Ithaca (26-5) in the first round of NCAAs tonight?	Football: Who wins when the Panthers (6-1) close out the year against Tufts (6-1) this weekend?	Women's Soccer: Do they beat MIT (17-5-1) tomorrow afternoon in the first round of NCAAs?	NCAA Basketball Tip-Off: Who do you have in tomorrow night's games? 11 Indiana vs. no. 3 KU 10 Arizona vs. no. 12 Mich St.
ANDREW RIGAS (72-49, .595)	NO You're right Will.	MIDDLEBURY We have faith.	YES Will and Remo are right this time.	KU and MSU I think Kansas' talent will prevail and Tom Izzo is the man.
WILL CASE (45-31, .592)	NO It's been a great run for the Panthers. In one game against a common opponent Ithica beat that team 3-2 and we lost 3-2.	MIDDLEBURY They'll lock up a win to see if they can win a split conference title.	YES It will be close but they are riding a hot streak.	KU and Arizona Tough to pick these early season games. Will be interesting to see how the teams come out.
 **REMO PLUNKETT** (89-65, .578)	YES Momentum is definitely on their side after winning the NESCAC Tournament last weekend.	MIDDLEBURY Tufts is also a good team, but I have faith in our high-powered offense.	YES I see this team going deep into the NCAA Tournament.	KU and Arizona I know nothing about college basketball. These are random picks.

Football Rebounds on the Road Against Hamilton

By Andrew Rigas
Sports Editor

The Middlebury football team (6-1) rebounded from its first loss of the season to Trinity two weekends ago by dominating Hamilton (2-5) by a score of 5-10 on Saturday, Nov. 5, on Steuben Field in Clinton, New York. The win marks the Panthers' 21st consecutive victory against the Continentals in the "Rocking Chair Classic" series.

Middlebury will play its last game of the season at home against Tufts (6-1) on Saturday, Nov. 12. If Middlebury beats Tufts and Wesleyan (6-1) beats Trinity (7-0), the Panthers will split the NESCAC title with those two teams, for their first NESCAC Championship since 2013 when the Panthers split with Wesleyan and Amherst.

After falling behind in each of their last three games, the Panthers jumped out to a 7-0 lead on their first drive of the game against the Continentals. Starting from the Hamilton 45-yard line, it took Middlebury ten plays and two fourth down conversions to find the end zone. Jared Lebowitz '18 capped off the drive by finding James Burke '17 for a 13-yard touchdown pass. They moved to the Hamilton three yard line on their next drive, but had to settle for a Carter Massengill '20 field goal and a 10-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Hamilton cut into that lead on its first drive of the second quarter with a 40-yard field goal. The momentum continued to swing in the Continentals' favor on the ensuing Middlebury possession, as Lebowitz threw the football to Hamilton. However, two plays later Bobby Ritter '19 intercepted a pass of his own to keep the Panthers' two score lead intact.

With 2:29 remaining in the first half, the Panthers went 74 yards in six plays to take a 17-3 lead into the halfway point. Lebowitz threw four consecutive completions of more than ten yards apiece to get his team to the four-yard line. After a Drew Jacobs '18 two-yard rush, Lebowitz ran it in himself and Middlebury led by 14 heading into the halftime break.

Middlebury picked up right where it left off on its first drive of the second half. In eight plays, the Panthers scored their third touchdown of the afternoon by driving 75 yards. Lebowitz hit Jimmy Martinez '19 for 42 yards then connected with Conor Banky '19 for an 11-yard touchdown and 24-3 lead.

Wesley Becton '18 set-up Middlebury's next score with an interception at the Hamilton 48. From there, Lebowitz ran for 16 yards then threw to Banky twice, the second being a 10-yard touchdown.

The Panthers added one more touchdown in a 21-point third quarter to go ahead 38-3 with one quarter to play. This time, they drove 81 yards in nine plays and Banky caught his third touchdown pass of the quarter.

"The key offensively was finding our rhythm," Banky said. "Hamilton ran some defensive schemes that we did not expect, but once we made our adjustments, the rest clicked into place."

Ritter intercepted his second pass of the game on Hamilton's next drive and the Panther offense turned to its second unit for the entire fourth quarter. Matt Cardew '18 ran for his first touchdown of the season and Hamilton scored its sole touchdown of the game in the fourth quarter to bring the final score to 45-10 in favor of Middlebury.

Middlebury forced six turnovers and allowed only 199 yards of total offense on the afternoon (the Panthers outgained the Continentals 483-199). Along with Ritter's two interceptions and Becton's one, Ian Blow '19 and Kevin Hartley '20 also recorded interceptions, while Rob Wood '18 led the team in tackles with six, sacked the quarterback twice and forced a fumble.

"A really big them on our defense is 'do your job,'" Wood said. "We highly regard the play-calling and leadership skills of all our coaches, but I've heard multiple mentions of the word 'genius' surround our defensive coordinator Coach Mandigo. Sometimes it's not your job to make the play you just have to trust in the system and good results will follow."

Offensively, Lebowitz finished 34-51 passing for 412 yards, four touchdowns and an interception and ran for 29 yards and a touchdown as well. Banky scored three times while catching nine passes for 154 yards. Burke caught a career-high ten passes for 96 yards and a touchdown, and Martinez caught six passes for a career-high 88 yards.

"I believe the offensive balance is essential to our success in the passing game," Banky said. "Having all three receivers make plays put the defense in a difficult situation."

The Panthers will host Tufts on Youngman Field at Alumni Stadium on Saturday, November 12. The Jumbos enter the last game of the season at 6-1 and riding a three-game winning streak, after losing their only game of the season to Trinity as well. A year ago, they beat the Panthers 31-28 for the first time in 14 years and seek their first seven-win season since 1998.

"The mentality is to focus on the task at hand," Banky said on Monday. "We can control the outcome of only one game Saturday. This week we are going to take the steps necessary to end this season on a high note."

With a win, the Panthers would guarantee at worst a second place finish in the NESCAC.

"This upcoming weekend the whole team is fired up and hungry for a win just as we usually are," Wood said. "Of course the stakes are higher than usual but we all know that we just need to have a great week of high energy and focused practices and arrive prepared both physically and mentally come Saturday afternoon."

BY THE NUMB3RS

6 *Consecutive years the Middlebury field hockey team has made it to the NESCAC Championship game*

Conference titles for the volleyball program following its win over Tufts last Sunday **5**

401 *Victories for volleyball Head Coach Sarah Raunecker after the team's conference title run last weekend*

Number of appearances at NCAAs for women's soccer after they received an at-large bid earlier this week **9**

SPENDING A DAY WITH THE CREW TEAM ON LAKE DUNMORE

By Ethan Brady
News Editor

I arrived at Lake Dunmore to a circle of athletes warming up beside Waterhouses Marina. The captains calling out exercise names and counting seconds.

Coach Adam Ashkam, sporting aviators and Middlebury warm-up gear, introduced himself to me. We'd contacted each other over email, and without delay he invited me to accompany him for the duration of the practice. The athletes were swarming boats and walking oars to the docks, going through their starting routine like clockwork.

Ashkam brought me to the "launch," a sleek plastic motorboat with a wide windshield and a rescue ring lying in the cockpit. Within minutes, we were out on the water. Most of the rowers were already on the move, coasting through the water at various speeds, each boat focused on its own movements.

He put the launch in the lowest gear and approached a two-person boat that seemed to have a dislodged oarlock. Ashkam threw a wing nut to the two rowers to fix their oar. One of them reached out to catch it, but the nut flew past his hands. Luckily, it struck against the far gunnel of the boat and fell safely on the deck.

"Now we know why we row: We can't catch," Ashkam said.

None of these athletes who drive to Dunmore for practice six days a week are recruited to row at Middlebury, unlike those of most of the teams the club competes against.

"We don't have the same advantage of previous experience, but we do have a very strong drive," said Mariah Dawson '17, captain of the women's team. "The voluntary nature of being on a club team means that everyone on the team really wants to be there and really cares about the team and our success."

Dawson recalled a moment that stood out to her most. She remembered one practice this fall during a strong storm. The team went out on to Dunmore amidst the gusts of wind, rain and large waves, getting tossed by the wind and soaked by the rain. They practiced on the water, and then they still had to take care of their boats and de-rig them after they got off the water.

"Despite the conditions, we all pulled together as a team and made the best of the practice," Dawson said.

Back on Dunmore, the bow of the launch where I sat had a big surface, large enough for rowers to climb out of their boats and lie on it. Ashkam used this holding pad to switch out rowers in different boats with each other.

He called this method "seat racing." By testing one seat at a time, he could compare two rowers' individual merits by controlling for the effects of each rower's seven other boat mates.

"When you're seat racing somebody, you can't think about it like that person is your enemy or they're taking something from you," said Colin Boyle '18, who was caught in a seat race with another teammate. "You have to think about it as, Coach thought that you were close enough to race and whatever happens, they're still your teammate — you still want them to do well. He's just the person who is best for the boat."

"Ready all," Ashkam called out through his megaphone. He paused for a moment before barking, "Row!"

I could hear the constant hum of the motor's engine as it crept along the water effortlessly. It felt slow, but we were moving slightly faster than the boats, which the rowers moved with their full-body pulls. The rhythm of oars plunging into the water in unison was calming.

"Eleven, twelve, thirteen," one of the coxswains was chanting. These steerers of the boat are usually small and lightweight, in order to sit low in the boat and not add too much dead weight. Each of the coxswains sported a headset with a microphone, which broadcast their commands to speakers beneath each of the rowers' feet.

During seat races, Ashkam doesn't tell the rowers how long each piece is. If he did, a rower could gauge how hard to pull and could end up lying low for some of the piece. It is the fairest way of determining who gets placed in what boat, he said.

"Thirty-one, thirty-two," another coxswain counted, her rowers still pulling tight.

The coxswain's head system is a computer. It tracks the boat's speed every ten meters, marks the time and the force taken by each stroke. It has a GPS and a gyroscope too, to map the boat's location over time.

In the middle of explaining his new gadgets, Ashkam noticed one boat , "Try not to hit the island," he said sarcastically.

A good boat costs in the tens of thousands of dollars. No wonder everyone's heart skipped a beat when one women's eight almost T-boned another boat.

"That would be an expensive T-bone," Ashkam muttered.

The team's boats are emblazoned with the Resolute wordmark, a company whose CEO is a Middlebury graduate. As Ashkam said, every dollar in a club sport counts.

Ashkam said he uses data to track individual performance. He can figure out the team's weak points much faster with the technology. They provide a more live-action look than times on an erg, the machine that rowers use to train on dry land. Sometimes, Ashkam said, lightweights can pull harder in the boat than they can on land.

"You might not be fast on the erg, but you guys can pull a damn boat," he said to one pair of rowers.

His training style is to maximize leg use. The quicker his rowers connect their legs to water, he said, the better. He wants them to work on power first — "Who cares about how you look!"

A stroke begins in a tense position, with knees compressed and arms extended. The rower thrusts the body backward like an explosion, and the arms bring the oar handles to the chest. The legs act like a lever to pry the boat through the water.

Ashkam tells rowers to focus on the movement of their legs during each row, letting them coast back on the return to a ready position. He hopes that his rowers develop power over time in the legs, and not focus as much on hitting strokes on a fast interval.

"You can row slowly and still have power," Ashkam said to me, as if briefing me on a little-known secret. "Plus, it demoralizes your competitors if you're rowing slower but going faster."

Ashkam pointed out the men's four boat, a 2002 Resolute model that was repainted and reconditioned this summer and held Nick Milazzo '18.5, Axel Hagman '17, Phil Hoxie '17.5 and Ian Delabie '17.

"If you can't tell, that's my boat of turkeys," Ashkam said jokingly.

The boat was locked in a race with several other boats, all on their way to the boathouse for the end of practice. In five strokes, they had given themselves a 15-meter buffer from the nearest boat.

"Those guys have a chance at our biggest race," he said, referring to the famous Head of the Charles in Cambridge, MA. "The last boat I raced in the Charles came in second, and these guys are faster than that."

Along the windy Charles River, though, anything can happen.

"The Charles is a coxswain's race," said Courtney Cano '18, the coxswain for the men's four. "You can add or subtract 500 meters just based on your steering. You have to know when to hug the shoreline and when not to — when to make the moves, when to hold the power off."

"If you're about to pass a boat, you have to call your crew up — you've got to make them want to push harder than they already are. If you need to get that line, you need to tell them: get me that fucking line."

Her four rowers recalled her emphatic commands during that race.

"Get me my line. Pass this boat in ten strokes," they recalled her shouting. This was during the Charles race, right before the Eliot Bridge turn, when they had passed a boat from St. John's Prep.

Over the course of the race, they had gained at least five boat lengths on other boats, and they came in second place. It was a crowning achievement for the men's team, who had been thirsting for a strong placement in the Charles for years. That finish represented a step forward for the team, the rowers told me. After all, it was the first time a men's boat had medaled at the Charles in Middlebury history.

"I think it has been overwhelmingly positive season both for me and for the entire team," men's team Captain Ian Delabie '17 said. "Everyone has really worked hard both on the water but also off the water in creating a healthy, supportive and competitive atmosphere, and I have been privileged to be part of such a dedicated group individuals."

The sun had set by then, and a chill had settled over the lake, signaling the end of my day on the water. The boats were docking one by one, pulling out oars and hoisting equipment onto land. The team would return early the next morning, before the crack of dawn.

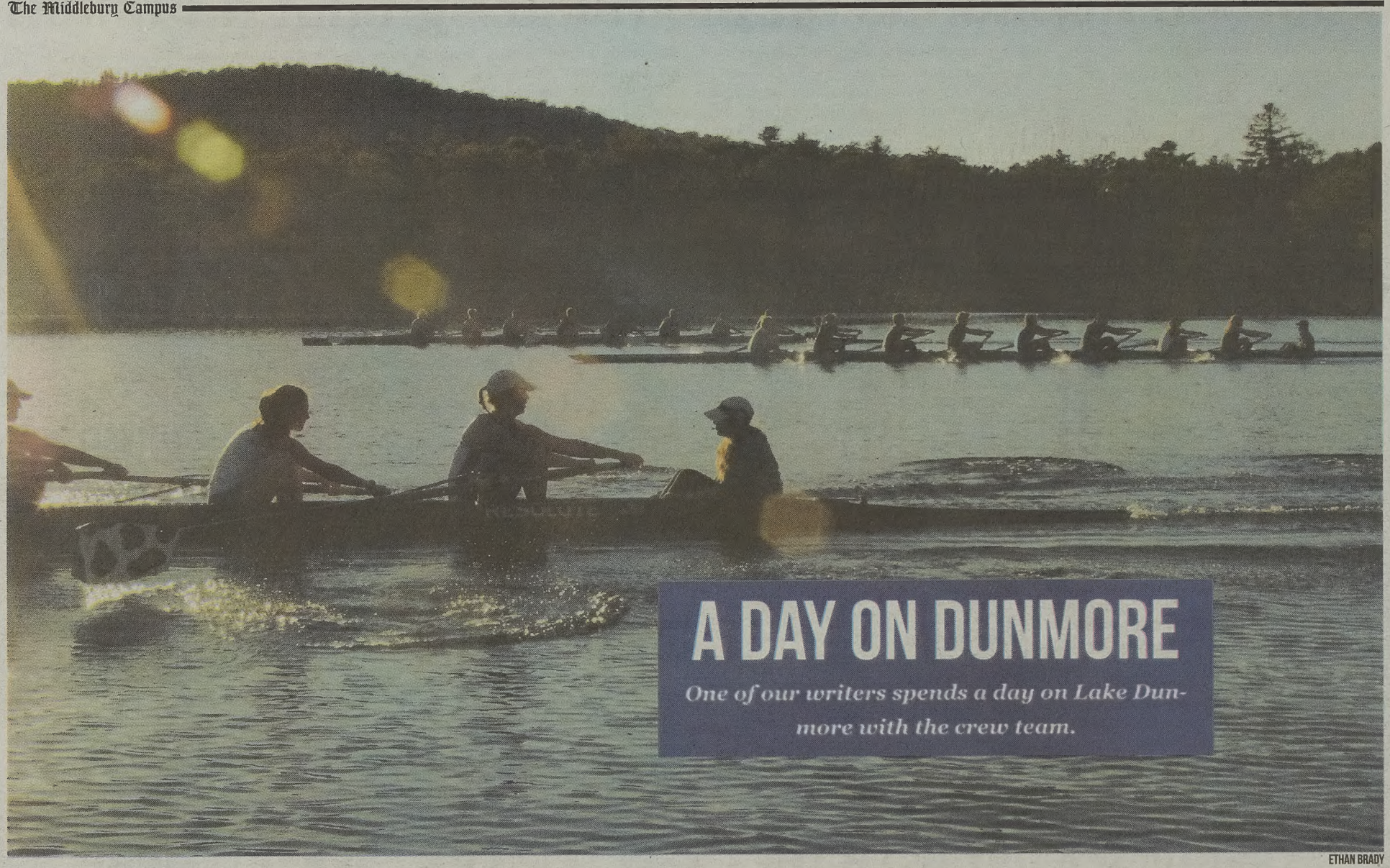
That weekend the team competed for the first time this fall against University of Vermont in Burlington. The men's varsity eight, four and pair boats all won their races. So did the women's varsity eight and the men's novice eight.

The men's varsity boat, Ashkam's turkeys, followed that up with a victory at the Head of the Snake in Worcester, MA, defeating 19 other boats from schools including Bowdoin, Colby and University of Rhode Island.

After the Charles, the team concluded the fall season at the Head of the Fish in Saratoga Springs, New York, where the men's four and lightweight four both finished second. The women's eight finished sixth and the men's eight finished tenth.

"This season has not just been about producing results and going fast," said Axel Hagman '17, the other captain of the men's team. "It has also been about building and creating a unified team. Seeing this growth has allowed us to focus on developing depth and cohesion, as well as creating a sense of unity, which is vital in the next few months of winter training."

And train they will.



A DAY ON DUNMORE

One of our writers spends a day on Lake Dunmore with the crew team.

ETHAN BRADY

Volleyball Wins NESCAC Title

By Colby Morris
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Middlebury volleyball team travelled down to Tufts University in Medford, Mass., to take on the best teams the NESCAC had to offer. Middlebury was seeded second in the tournament, starting off play against Bates to whom they lost just the weekend prior, but no squad could stand in the way of a team determined to take home the crown and a bid to the NCAA Regionals.

The Panthers won 3-1 against Bates in the quarterfinals, 3-0 against Amherst in the semifinals and beat the host team Tufts 3-2 in dramatic fashion on the Jumbos' home court to take the NESCAC title. It was an especially notable weekend as head coach Sarah Raunecker '92 won her 400th game at the helm of the volleyball team.

In the first game on Friday against Bates, entering as the 7th seed, while seeded higher, Middlebury couldn't sit back on their heels as the Bobcats bested the Panthers 3-1 the prior weekend. The Bobcats obviously also had a lot to play for with the championship on the line and came out aggressively, keeping the score at 17-18 late in the first set.

Two big serves from Hannah Blackburn '17 helped give the second-seeded Panthers the necessary edge to pull away and take the first set by a score of 25-21. Bates did not go down easily, though, as they came back to try to even the game up, jumping out to a quick 7-2 lead in the second set.

Despite Middlebury's efforts, they were unable to muster enough of a comeback after tying the score at 15, eventually falling in the second set by a score of 25-22. Just two sets from elimination, Raunecker's squad rallied back in the third set, winning with a score of 25-22 with the help of five huge kills from Becca Raffel '18 to retake the lead at 2-1. The fourth set would turn out to be similar to the third as Raffel added four more kills and the Panthers jumped out to a commanding 20-12 lead before finishing 25-21 to take the match 3-1.

Coming off of her dominant 22 kill performance in the opening game of the tournament, Raffel helped lead the charge into the semifinals against third-seeded Amherst on Saturday, Nov. 5. Down early on in the first set, Raffel and Sarah Staver '19 helped Middlebury rally to take the lead with a couple of kills.

This would give team a 1-0 advantage after finishing the set off 25-22. Melanie English '17, Alice Roberts '18 and Isabel Sessions '18 helped out in the next set with kills of their own as Middlebury dominated to the tune of a 25-16 score to take a 2-0 lead.

Amherst did not go down easily, as they managed to keep the score tied at 20 late into the third set, but the team pushed to give Raunecker her 400th career win as they pulled away at the end to win 25-23 and 3-0 for the match, advancing to the NESCAC finals for the first time since 2012. Raffel had another great game with 16 kills and Gigi Alper '20 led the way defensively with 17 digs.

No member of the Middlebury team played in a NESCAC Championship before Sunday's game against Tufts, showing how resilient this squad is as they took on the best team in the league based on overall record, ranked first in New England.

With a bid to the NCAA Tournament and a NESCAC Championship title on the line, Tufts came out looking like the favorite as they overpowered the visitors 25-14 in the first set. Middlebury did not settle for second in the conference as they came back in the next set, holding on to a narrow lead, finishing off the set 25-19 after four consecutive successful serves from Staver.

Now tied at one set apiece, the Panthers found themselves down 14-13 but came clawing back to win 25-19 on two clutch kills from English. Tufts was not ready to hand over the trophy and after a hard fought fourth set, the Jumbos edged the Panthers 26-24 to tie the game up at 2-2, bringing it to a winner- take-all fifth.

Middlebury initially went down 10-6 in the fifth set, however, a kill by Eliana Schaefer '18 turned the tides and in the blink of an eye and the Panthers soon had a 13-10 lead. Their momentum continued as Middlebury finished off a monumental run with a 15-11 set win, 3-2 game win and a NESCAC Championship. Blackburn had a great day on defense with 29 digs and Raffel continued her incredible play with another 15 kills and 26 digs of her own.

"Winning NESCACS was beyond incredible," Alper said. "We could not be more excited about the win and we can't wait to continue our season in the NCAA Tournament. We put in so many hours in the gym, and it could not feel better to know that they payed off."

After winning the NESCAC title, the Panthers earned an automatic bid the the 64 team tournament to compete for a national championship, beginning on Friday, Nov. 11 against Ithaca College in Brockport, NY at the host site SUNY Brockport.

WOMEN'S SOCCER ADVANCES

By Sebastian Sanchez
Senior Writer

The third-seeded Middlebury women's soccer team traveled to Williamstown, Mass., last Saturday, Nov. 5, to face second-seeded Amherst in the NESCAC Semifinal. Unlike earlier in the season, the Panthers were unable to gain an early advantage, ultimately falling to the Lord Jeffs by a score of 2-0. However, the Panthers secured an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, and when they return to action in their first round against MIT at Stevens Institute of Technology on Saturday, Nov. 12., it will be their tournament game since 2014 when they lost to an unbeaten Trinity (Texas) team in the Final Four.

Scoring chances were hard to come by in the first half and both teams struggled to capitalize on their offensive opportunities. Despite several openings for the attacking Panthers, neither team was able to find the net, resulting in a scoreless first half.

"We lacked fire at the beginning," Maddison Morgan '18 said. "We couldn't capitalize on the chances we were given and they took advantage of that in the second half."

Adrianna Gildner '17 had an opportunity from inside the penalty box, but her shot went wide to the left of the goal. The Lord Jeffs struck first in the 52nd minute of play when an Amherst forward dribbled down the right sideline, crossed a shot that bounced unfortunately to another Amherst attacker who was on the breakaway and found the back of the net to take a 1-0 lead. 10 minutes later, Amherst penetrated the Middlebury defense for a second time and lifted a shot over the out-stretched arms of goaltender Kate Reinmuth '17 to take a 2-0 lead.

"Amherst is a team that capitalizes on other team's breakdowns and unfortunately they took advantage of us in that regard," said Sara DiCenso '19. "They are very fast up top and like to play direct which disrupted possession from the back third to the final third of the field."

Although Middlebury outshot Amherst by a margin of 17-12, the Panthers were unable to capitalize on the opportunities presented to them throughout the game.

"We just didn't capitalize on any of our opportunities," Gildner said. 'We knew going into the game that it was going to be a battle and unfortunately Amherst won this one."

Luckily, this is not the end of the Panthers' season as they received an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. They will play MIT on Saturday and if they win, they will either face Colby-Sawyer College or Stevens Institute of Technology in the second round which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 5 p.m.

INSIDE SPORTS

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